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STEWART STALWART'S NEXT STEP

FORMER DAILY SHOW CORRESPONDENT JOHN OLIVER HOPS OVER TO HBO TO TALK 'LAST WEEK TONIGHT' PAGE 25

B.C. Christian law school scorned by Ontario lawyers

Law Society votes against accrediting law school that bans gay sexual intimacy PAGE 17

OC Transpo driver 'afraid' following bus attacks

Suzanne Burgess has been spat on and had rocks thrown at her while behind the wheel PAGE 3

GET READY TO INDULGE

Kim Taylor and Max Mackie devour Mexican-inspired poutine at the Sparks Street Poutine Festival Thursday. For more on the festival, which runs until April 27, and the poutine contest that Metro digital reporter Lucy Scholey will help to judge on Friday, see page 8.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Data breach hits watchdog

Office of the Privacy Commissioner.
Sensitive details on 800 federal employees have possibly been exposed

A data breach at the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada has potentially exposed the private information of 800 current and former federal government employees.

The office lost an unencrypted hard drive containing employee names, official ID numbers, salary information and details on overtime while moving headquarters in mid-February, Interim Privacy Commissioner Chantal Bernier said. Those affected are current or former employees of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner and the Office of the Information Commissioner.

Bernier told 180 people of the breach at a staff meeting last week. Another 600 former employees are expected to be told by phone or mail within the next several days.

The external drive, used for rebuilding server data, holds the privacy office's budgeting system, which it shares with the Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada.

IT staff first noticed the drive was missing in mid-March when they had trouble setting up their servers after the move from Ottawa to Gatineau, Que., on Feb. 14. It wasn't until April 9 that they realized the drive contained personal information.

Bernier was informed the next day and gave IT staff 24 hours to find out what was on it.

"As we dug, we found out that there was a little bit more personal information than we thought, " she said.

"The drive does not contain anything that can be used for identity theft," Bernier said. Ad hoc Privacy Commissioner John H. Sims, will decide if the incident warrants an investigation.

GRAHAM LANKTREE/ TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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NE043G214

Downtown

SIU clears Ottawa police officer in fatal crash probe

The Special Investigations Unit has cleared an Ottawa police officer of any wrongdoing following a fatal collision in the city's downtown area last October.

The officer saw a speeding car travelling in the westbound lane of Laurier, according to the investigation. She made a U-turn and turned on her emergency lights. The speeding car did not stop and crashed into another car, killing the 53-year-old driver of that vehicle. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Via Rail

Barrhaven railway crossings 'back to normal'

Four malfunctioning railway crossings in the Barrhaven area are "back to normal," following maintenance work, according to Via Rail.

Fallowfield, Strandherd, Greenbank and Jockvale roads will "return to normal" at 7 p.m. on Thursday, states the Crown corporation's press release.

There will be temporary measures in place for the crossings on Woodroffe Avenue and the Transitway, including maintenance personnel on site and reduced train speeds in the area.

The crossings are located near the site of a September collision between an OC Transpo bus that left six people dead. The cause of the accident is still under investigation.

Via Rail will hold a "technical briefing" on Friday. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Hydro relief coming (for biz only)

A day after Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli announced hydro costs will go up for some Ontario residents, he laid out his plans to give businesses a break on their energy costs by expanding their eligibility for two existing money-saving programs.

The province is proposing to change the rules to allow large electricity consumers with a peak demand of more than three megawatts to be eligible to shift their consumption to off peak hours to save between 15 and 20 per cent on their bills. Previously, the cutoff was more than five megawatts.

Chiarelli said the province is also promising to reduce electricity rates for companies that "expand and create jobs," but he could not provide specifics on how that will work.

On Wednesday, the minister said in a speech that new measures are coming to help low-income families pay hydro bills after 2015. But it will come at a cost to other ratepayers — about 90 cents per month.

Chiarelli went on defence at Thursday's press conference, saying cities like Ottawa and Toronto pay less than Calgary, Halifax and Boston, according to a Hydro Quebec survey.

"We are now extremely competitive with residential prices," he said. "We're better than the U.S. and we have a long-term energy plan that sees the increase being significantly mitigated." JOE LOFARO/METRO

Bob Chiarelli announced measures to help businesses save on energy bills. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Bus driver 'afraid' to return after attack

Suzanne Burgess, an OC Transpo bus driver, said she has needed therapy and time off work after she was assaulted on the job in February. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

OC Transpo. There have been 13 reported assaults on bus drivers this year

Suzanne Burgess has been spat on and had rocks thrown at her while behind the wheel of an OC Transpo bus.

But it was an assault last February that has kept the driver from going back to the job she loves. A seemingly intoxicated woman grabbed Burgess's face, scraped her neck and pulled her down to the bus floor. Her aggressor did not go to jail.

"I'm in therapy at the moment because I'm afraid to go back," Burgess told reporters on Thursday.

A new Senate bill aims to crack down on such abuse against transit operators. Sen. Bob Runciman said the proposed legislation will make assault "an aggravating circumstance" that a judge will have to consider when handing down a sentence.

There are two similar private members' bills in the House of Commons, but Runciman said his legislation is broader because it includes taxi drivers and train and subway operators.

He said it was "outrageous" that an Ottawa man convicted of assaulting an OC Tranpso bus driver last year did not see a day in jail. Runciman has since consulted with a Crown attorney and former police chief Vern White on this legislation.

He plans to introduce the bill this week or next and said it should become law before the next federal election in 2015.

Burgess said she hopes this bill will help make bus drivers feel more comfortable on the job.

Recently, Patrick Guitard was sentenced to six months in prison for shoving a driver and causing the bus to swerve onto oncoming traffic.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

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Kids dig Sens rink coming to Bayshore

Sens RINK project. As part of a $500,000 makeover of Bayshore Park, the rink will get a $100,000 upgrade

TREVOR GREENWAY
trevor.greenway@metronews.ca

City officials, politicians and Ottawa Senators personnel toss sand in the air during an official groundbreaking ceremony for the Bayshore Park Sens RINK project Thursday. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Ashley Cole says she never would have learned to skate if it wasn't for the Ottawa Senators' I Love to Skate program.

The nine-year-old first laced up at the Bayshore community rink and she can't wait until it gets a $100,000 facelift, as part of the Sens RINK project.

"Mostly, I am excited for skating in it," Cole told Metro after making a small speech at the groundbreaking ceremony at Bayshore Park Thursday. "Having the Sens Rink in Accora Village means that my friends and I can play and learn how to skate. The community will also be able to use the rink to play basketball in the summer and skate in the winter."

In partnership with the City of Ottawa, the Ottawa Senators Foundation and Ferguslea Properties, the park will undergo a $500,000 makeover, which will include a brand new Sens rink, an outdoor stage and community bake oven, and a renovated community building.

Councillor for Bay Ward Mark Taylor said the project is long overdue for the dense community that is overrun with active kids.

"Our challenge has been a lot of the stuff has just gotten worn out and a lot of the stuff wasn't purpose built for the use that it's undergoing right now," said Taylor.

The new rink will be completed in June.

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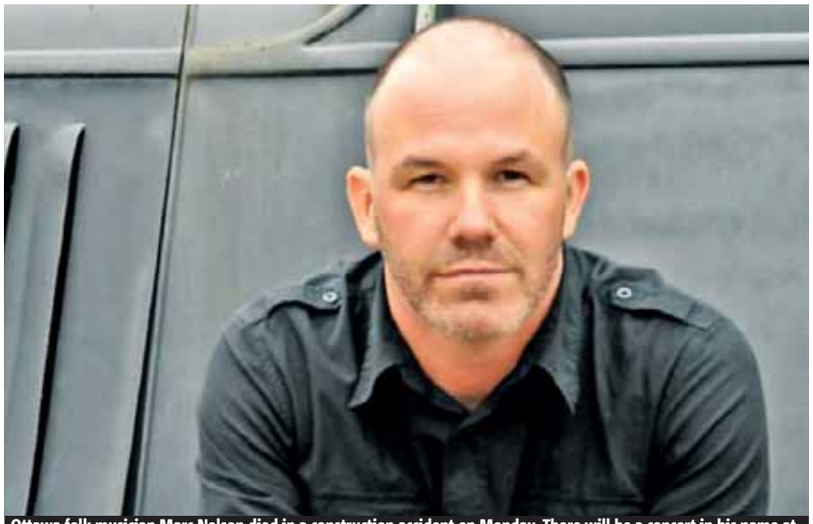
‘He was an artist and he was our friend’: Musician, father remembered

More than a construction worker. Condolences pour in for Marc Nelson, who died in a work accident

LUCY SCHOLEY
lucy.scholey@metronews.ca



Ottawa folk musician Marc Nelson died in a construction accident on Monday. There will be a concert in his name at Crazy Horse on Sunday. PAUL NELSON IMAGES

Days after Marc Nelson died in a construction accident, it’s still hard for family members to play his folk music.

“It’s very difficult to hear him sing,” said wife Ryanne Nelson, who’s left to care for the couple’s two children, aged eight and five.

The 45-year-old Aylmer resident died on Monday at a work site at the Bank of Canada in Ottawa.

While news reports initially identified him only as a construction worker, friends and family members describe him as the friendly, soft-spoken musician who put music before everything and his kids before his music.

He worked in construction to support his passion for writing and playing folk songs. He landed about four gigs a week, including kids’ birthday parties, bars, legion halls, comedy nights and at two Olympic Games. Always smiling, he never shied away from talking to people.

On the day he died, his wife came home from the hospital and checked his email.

There was a short message from a woman he sat next to every day on the bus to work. She had read the news about a still-unnamed 45-year-old construction worker who died on the job and she wanted to make sure he was OK.

It was a simple, sweet email that also said a lot about Nelson.

“How many people take the time to learn about the lady on the bus?” said a tearful Cathy Gordon, Nelson’s sister. “He did things nobody did. He could make friends effortlessly.”

Soon messages came flooding in from all around the world, including personal condolences from Ron Sexsmith — a musician Nelson idolized and once played with.

Stuart Watkins, a bass player who shared the stage with Nelson for the past decade, is organizing a show in his friend’s name, both to celebrate his life and remember him as a musician.

“Not that there’s anything wrong with being in construction, but that’s not who he was,” he said. “He was an artist and he was our friend.”

The show will be at Crazy Horse, at 115 Roland Michener Dr., on Sunday from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the event will collect donations towards the Nelson children’s education.

Quoted

“He did things nobody did. He could make friends effortlessly.”

Cathy Gordon,
on her brother, Marc Nelson

OWHA asks hockey parents to stay off Network 54

The Ontario Women’s Hockey Association (OWHA) is warning parents to stay away from an online hockey forum, as bullying comments have left some young girls suicidal and forced several volunteer coaches and parents to abandon the game for good.

OWHA president Fran Rider has fielded dozens of calls from parents complaining about what other parents have written about their kids on the hockey forum on Network 54.

“We actually have had two adults who have quit hockey because they are business people and they can’t afford their reputation to be damaged,” she said.

“I know of three adults who are in counselling themselves and certainly we have had parents call here with their children suicidal because of what is on the website and they (were) just devastated.”

Metro first reported the site after coming across a thread about a “AAA” female hockey player that parents were bashing. One anonymous post read that “Daddy and Mommy have pumped her head up so much that she can barely get a helmet on.”

Criticism on forums like Network 54 can devastate kids. ADAM BERRY/GETTY IMAGES

Another went as far as calling a young player a “loser kid who can’t make a team on his own merit.”

Anne Bowker, a developmental psychologist and program chair at Carleton University, said kids around the age of 11 and 12 are at a pivotal point when deciding whether to check out of a sport or get serious about it. If a child sees bullying remarks, it could be detrimental and it seems at least some of the kids are fully aware of the site. Tim Bowen is a hockey parent, coach and referee in Ontario and has witnessed several players talking about Network 54.

“Being a referee, I know kids are talking about this on the ice. I am talking Atom kids, eight- and nine-year-olds will say, ‘Hey, I wonder if that will make (Network) 54,’” said Bowen.

“I refereed a game in a Brantford tournament this year and one kid had this dazzling goal and he said, “I bet that makes 54,” right after the goal. And I looked at him and said, ‘Oh my god.’”

Bowen added that if his 14-year-old daughter was bashed online, it would “devastate her.”

The OWHA has implemented a social media bullying policy that will suspend players and parents who make inappropriate remarks online. The punishment is similar to a match penalty when a player deliberately tries to injure another player on the ice.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Body spotted near Hog’s Back Park

A paramedic carries a water stretcher down a path in Hog’s Back Park Tuesday after police say a body was found in the area. A 911 caller spotted a body near the area at around 1:15 p.m. Police have not identified the body. John Davies, 66, a retired Ottawa photographer, has been missing since April 3, and last Saturday police found his car in the park’s parking lot. A police search crew was deployed in the area on Tuesday to search for clues as to his whereabouts. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Police report in favour of more Tasers for officers

Expanded access.
Ottawa Police Services Board will consider findings Monday

JOE LOFARO
joe.lofaro@metronews.ca

Qualified, first-class police officers should be authorized to carry conducted energy weapons (CEWs) known as Tasers, says a new report from the Ottawa Police Service.

The long-awaited report will bring Ottawa police one step closer to equipping more officers with the tactical weapons in situations that call for it.

It proposes a two-year deployment plan, after which police will assess the effectiveness of having ready access to Tasers.

The report also recommends the police force purchase up to 100 new Tasers in the second year of the deployment plan.

The Ottawa Police Services Board will consider the recommendations at a meeting Monday evening.

Currently, only front line supervisors and officers from the tactical unit can carry a Taser with them, making their availability on the road range from 15 to five.

Officers who will carry them under the new plan will have to meet certain criteria and undergo routine training.

Equipping more frontline officers will not come at an extra cost and is "fiscally prudent," the report said.

The 17-page report includes anecdotes of real-life police calls in which a Taser was used by an officer to diffuse a situation.

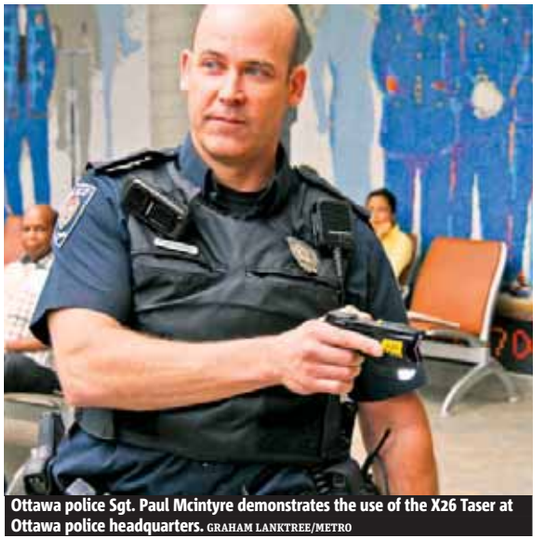
In one example, a woman from Toronto contacted Ottawa police because she was concerned for the safety of her brother who lived in the capital.

When police arrived at his home, they found him in the bathtub with deep cuts to his wrist and waved a razor blade at the officers.

"Fortunately, a member of the Tactical Unit happened to be on his way to an unrelated meeting in the vicinity of the call, and was able to attend and assist.

The CEW was successfully deployed and the man was taken to the hospital for treatment," the report noted.

The report suggests having front line officers equipped with immediate access to Tasers is a matter of both officer and public safety.



Ottawa police Sgt. Paul Mcintyre demonstrates the use of the X26 Taser at Ottawa police headquarters. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

'Staggering' debt

Grits should involve private sector: Duncan

Ontario's governing Liberals — or whichever party succeeds them — should work with the private sector to deliver public services at less cost, former Liberal finance minister Dwight Duncan said Thursday.

The cash-strapped Liberals are running an $11.3-billion deficit and have doubled the debt to $272 billion since they took office in 2003.

Duncan, who was treasurer from 2007 to 2013 when the province racked up record deficits, said all three parties will be compelled to look at more efficient ways to provide services.

Ontario has a "staggering" debt, insufficient infrastructure, and an aging population that will up health-care costs, he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fraud-related charges

Nurse charged with identity theft

Police say a registered practical nurse at a health care facility in Halton Region is facing a dozen new fraud-related charges.

Halton police say a woman who was a patient at the facility where the accused, a male nurse, was employed had her identity and credit cards compromised in January 2013.

Police say the information came to light after the nurse was investigated for allegedly similar acts at another facility.

The nurse, who was out on a bail for 52 criminal charges, was arrested and charged on Wednesday.

The new charges against Victor Manzo include possession of credit card data, use of credit card data, attempted fraud, and identity theft. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Male esthetician lands job after facing discrimination

Making headlines. Five employers offered him a job after Metro story broke

LUCY SCHOLEY
lucy.scholey@metronews.ca

A male esthetician who said he had problems finding work because of his gender has finally found a job.

Emmanuel Vien, 20, is now working at Metta Massage and Yoga Clinic in Westboro — a job he secured soon after making headlines in March.

Vien had said Ottawa's beauty industry often discriminates against male estheticians, particularly when it comes to waxing services. He said he had more than a dozen job interviews and was often told that he did not fit in or would not be successful because he's a man.

After his story broke, five employers offered him a job.

Vien, a graduate of the Versailles Academy of Make-up Arts, is now working a 35-hour workweek at Metta and will soon take over a maternity leave contract. The spa services are new at the wellness clinic, but Vien said he wants to help build a clientele.

He said he picked the nontraditional spa location because it offers organic facials, manicures, pedicures and skin care. It will soon add waxing services to the list.

"They really didn't have a problem with me being who I am," said Vien, who often wears make-up and sports a blond, side swept hairdo.

He's heard mostly positive feedback from the public and fellow professionals and said he will soon be the topic of a story in the pages of a U.S. magazine.

He said he understands why some women might take issue with a man waxing their bikini line, but said most clients are comfortable with it.

Some people's opinions of male estheticians may not change overnight, but Vien said he hopes his story at least generated some awareness around what he calls a discriminatory industry.

He said he hopes that those employers who did not hire him no longer have the same prejudice against other male estheticians.

Emmanuel Vien, a male esthetician who said he faced gender discrimination while trying to find work, has finally found a job at a clinic in Westboro. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Sparks Street Poutine Festival a 'sinful little treat'

A menu board displays some of the delectable, cheesy fair on offer.
TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Doritos on Poutine?

There aren't many toppings you won't find at the Sparks Street Poutine Festival this weekend, as more than 30 food trucks have whipped up their best twist on the Quebec classic.

The festival will give stomach sinners a taste of everything — from Tandori chicken poutine to fries and cheese curds topped with bacon, onions, mushrooms, pulled pork, lobster and, yes, Doritos.

"Very good, they actually crumpled up Doritos on mine. They are gone now, but…" said Max Mackie, devouring Big D's nacho poutine.

Sitting next to Mackie, Kim Taylor was sinking her teeth into Big D's Fiesta Poutine — basically fries and gravy with a burrito on top.

"It's like a burrito and a poutine. It's like two people took amazing foods and put them together."

Programming and events coordinator of the Sparks Street Business Improvement Area Kevin McHale said the idea to create a poutine festival started as a joke, but has since become a staple event that creates a vibe along the trendy downtown street.

"It's just a sinful little treat," he said. "It's something that everybody has had at the chip truck and you've had it all your life and it's just tasty, it's delicious and everybody knows that they really shouldn't be eating it."

And vendors should bring their A-game, because Metro's own Lucy Scholey will be a judge at the event. Scholey spent extensive time covering the poutine beat across the river while working at the Low Down to Hull and Back News in Wakefield.

Poutine lovers can buy a Poutine Pass for $25, which gives you five sample poutines, but if you want gourmet toppings like bacon or lobster, you have to pay extra.

The Sparks Street Poutine Festival runs all weekend.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

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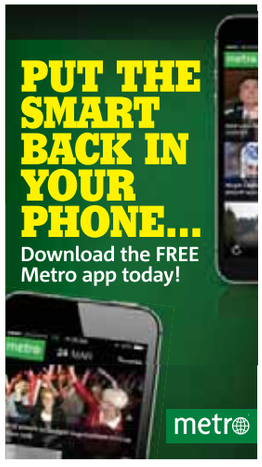

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Please allow 8 weeks post-promotion for Bonus reward miles to be credited to your Collector Account. **5 The Children's Place:** AIR MILES Bonus Offer is valid April 25-27, 2014 at all Ontario stores when you present your Collector Card at the time of purchase. Offer not valid on online purchases. No coupon required. Valid for a minimum purchase of $55 in a single transaction, net of refunds and exclusive of taxes, discounts, and gift card purchases. Offer cannot be combined with any other AIR MILES Bonus Offer. This is an exclusive offer and is non-transferable. The Children's Place reserves the right to change or cancel the offer at any time. **6 LCBO:** Bonus AIR MILES® reward miles available on selected products from March 30, 2014 to April 27, 2014 at the LCBO. Offer available in Ontario only. While quantities last. Offer subject to change without notice. See in-store for details. ®™Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Co. Inc. 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Garbage-to-energy plant ordered to stop burning medical waste

Aborted fetuses. Order comes after learning waste from B.C. may contain human tissue

An Oregon county commission has ordered an incinerator to stop accepting boxed medical waste to generate electricity after learning the waste it's been burning may include tissue from aborted fetuses from British Columbia.

Sam Brentano, chairman of the Marion County board of commissioners, said late Wednesday the board is taking immediate action to prohibit human tissue from future deliveries at the plant that has been turning waste into energy since 1987.

"We provide an important service to the people of this state and it would be a travesty if this program is jeopardized due to this finding," he said in a statement.

"We thought our ordinance excluded this type of material at the waste-to-energy facility. We will take immediate action to ensure a process is developed to prohibit human tissue from future deliveries."

Kristy Anderson, a British Columbia Health Ministry spokeswoman, told The Associated Press that regional health authorities there have a contract with a company that sends biomedical waste, such as fetal tissue, cancerous tissue and amputated limbs, to Oregon, where it's incinerated in the waste-energy plant.

Small percentage

Marion County estimates that the facility processes 635 tonnes of in-county medical waste each year and about 1,100 tonnes from elsewhere, making it a small percentage of the total waste burned.

The B.C. Catholic, a Vancouver-based newspaper, identified the plant as Covanta Marion, based in Brooks, Ore.

When contacted by The Associated Press on Wednesday, a Covanta Marion representative said he did not know if fetal tissue was included in shipments from Canada or elsewhere.

The facility is owned and operated by Covanta in a partnership with Marion County. According to its website, it processes about 500 tonnes per day of municipal solid waste, generating up to 13 megawatts of energy sold to Portland General Electric.

County spokeswoman Jolene Kelley said medical waste has been included in the program for some time, but the commissioners never had any indication that fetal tissue might be included. "We learned that today," she said.

Commissioners did not say why they believe medical waste shipped to the plant should be free of fetal tissue.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yellow ribbons a symbol of hope for return of passengers

A female relative of a passenger aboard the sunken ferry Sewol is consoled by her husband as yellow ribbons are displayed as a sign of hope for the safe return of missing passengers at a port in Jindo, South Korea, Thursday. Divers made their way deeper into the submerged wreck of a ferry that sank more than a week ago as the death toll neared 160 and relatives of the more than 140 still missing pressed the government to finish the grim task of recovery soon. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stowaway. U.S. teen who survived flight said to be homesick for Africa

A security video shows the boy who survived stowing away on a jetliner dangling his feet from the aircraft's wheel well after arriving in Hawaii, before jumping three metres to the ground and collapsing, an airport official says.

The 15-year-old, who defied the odds by living through the freezing, low-pressure conditions in the jetliner's wheel well as it flew from California to Hawaii, was disoriented and thirsty after Sunday's ordeal, Maui District Airport manager Marvin Moniz said.

Staggering toward the nose of the plane, the soft-spoken boy in a San Francisco Giants hoodie asked a ramp agent for a drink of water, setting in motion federal and local law enforcement investigations, national calls for better airport security and a flurry of speculation about how anyone could survive such a perilous trip.

Evading security

The boy told officials he evaded what was supposed to be a multi-layered airport security system in San Jose by climbing a fence.

Abdilahi Yusuf Abdi, who said he is the boy's father, told Voice of America Wednesday that his son — who is still hospitalized in Honolulu — missed Africa, where they used to live, and had been struggling in school.

The teen, whose name has not been released, said he had been in an argument at home, went to the airport, and got onto the first plane he came to.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Vatican calling. Pope's phone call to divorcee leads to questions regarding church rules

What Pope Francis may tell Catholics in private telephone conversations doesn't reflect church policy, the Vatican's spokesman said Thursday.

An unusual statement from The Rev. Federico Lombardi came after days of speculation that the pope wants to change Roman Catholic Church rules barring communion for faithful people who remarry after getting divorced.

The question arose after Francis reportedly called an Argentine woman who had written to him for guidance, saying her parish priest had denied her access to the sacraments because her spouse's previous marriage had not been annulled.

The woman's husband, Julio Sabetta, said Francis told his wife that she was free of sin and should take communion anyway.

Sabetta said he took the call from Argentina's former archbishop, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, on Monday afternoon at their home in San Lorenzo, in the Argentine province of Santa Fe.

Sabetta said his wife, Jacqui Lisbona, then took the call and spoke directly with the pope.

Word spread after Sabetta posted on Facebook that the pope had called. Then came news stories speculating that Francis will do away with the ban on divorcees — or even their spouses — accepting the wine and bread that represents the blood and body of Christ, and full membership in the church.

But Lombardi's statement — issued in Italian, English and Spanish — cautioned that "consequences related to the teaching of the Church are not to be inferred" from the pope's private conversations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope Francis does the sign of the cross during his weekly general audience, in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican on April 23. ANDREW MEDICHINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Buffalo, NY

No cheerleaders for the Bills

The Buffalo Bills cheerleaders will be making no appearances this year, a decision that comes days after a lawsuit over pay and working conditions.

Stephanie Mateczun, manager of the Bills and president of Stejon Productions Corp., wouldn't explain the suspension.

Two days earlier, five former cheerleaders sued the company and NFL team. One cheerleader said they had to take a "jiggle test" so their boss could assess their physiques.

The cheerleaders seek unspecified back pay and legal fees. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow

Putin wants more cyberspace control

President Vladimir Putin has mocked the Internet as a CIA project and pledged to protect Russia's interests online.

The Kremlin has been anxious to exert greater control over the Internet, which opposition activists — barred from national television — have used to promote their ideas and organize protests.

Russia's parliament this week passed a law requiring social media websites to keep their servers in Russia and save all information about their users for at least half a year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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‘Everyday Canadians’ favour bill, Tories say

Fair Elections Act.
Minister frames much-maligned bill as Ottawa elites versus average Joes

Protesters outside an Ottawa venue where Minister of State Pierre Poilievre spoke about the Fair Elections Act Thursday. ADRIAN WYLD /THE CANADIAN PRESS

What’s a government to do when a litany of parliamentary watchdogs, academics, aboriginal leaders, editorialists and opposition politicians say your legislation stinks?

If you’re Stephen Harper’s Conservatives, you seize the opportunity to make the debate over the Fair Elections Act into a political wedge issue — average Canadians versus the Ottawa elites.

Pierre Poilievre, the minister of state for democratic reform, spelled this out Thursday in a luncheon speech in Ottawa, borrowing a favourite phrase from former Ontario Conservative premier Mike Harris — “common sense” — to draw a line between ordinary folks and the out-of-touch political class.

“Away from the noise around political Ottawa, everyone understands that this is common sense,” Poilievre said.

“We’re just finishing two weeks away from Parliament. Out in our communities, it has been refreshing to be reminded of the massive gulf between those in the political bubble and everyday Canadians on the ground.”

For Poilievre, part of developing that us-versus-them frame on the debate has been to suggest there is only one real point of contention: the government’s plan to eliminate vouching.

But that has not been the only criticism of the bill. There have also been complaints about the limitations placed on the chief electoral officer’s ability to communicate publicly, and a campaign-soliciting loophole. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

“They’re relying on the worst kind of majoritarianism and people’s gut instincts.”

Craig Scott, the NDP’s democratic reform critic on the Conservatives’ Fair Elections Act

Robocall investigation turns up no evidence

A three-year investigation into allegations of fraudulent robocalls during the last federal election has found no evidence of intent to deceive voters, nor any evidence of an orchestrated scheme beyond Guelph, Ont.

A long-awaited report from commissioner of elections Yves Cote will come as vindication for the Conservative party, which has faced a cloud of suspicion for years over widespread reports of non-party supporters being directed to the wrong polling stations in the final days and hours of the hard-fought vote on May 2, 2011.

“Having carefully examined all of the evidence, the commissioner found no reasonable grounds to believe that an offence under the (Elections) Act has been committed,” Cote’s 32-page report, posted Thursday, flatly asserts.

Pierre Poilievre, the minister of state for democratic reform, said the report proves the Conservatives ran “an honest and ethical campaign” in 2011. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister of State Pierre Poilievre is seen after speaking to the Economic Club of Canada Thursday in Ottawa. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scan the photo below with your Metro News app to see a photo gallery of the best pics from Will, Kate and George’s tour.

Royal tour wrapping up

Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, meets young schoolchildren during a visit to the National Arboretum in Canberra, Australia, on Thursday. Prince William bid farewell to Australia on Thursday in the only speech of his national tour. “We go away with wonderful memories and George goes away with a cuddly wombat that he’s taken to chewing so lovingly,” the Duke of Cambridge told a reception in Canberra. Prince William, Catherine, and Prince George leave Canberra after Veterans’ Day commemorations on Friday, ending a three-week tour of Australia and New Zealand. ROB GRIFFITH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senate scandal

Wallin regrets making payback

Suspended senator Pamela Wallin says she regrets paying back money for expense claims that she still doesn’t see as dubious.

Wallin told a Toronto radio station Thursday that the payback created a perception she was guilty of fudging her expenses.

Wallin, who was co-hosting a three-hour talk show, said she paid back some $38,000 despite her belief that many of the travel expenses in question were legitimate.

The former Conservative said she paid the money to end the distraction created by the Senate scandal, despite receiving advice not to pay it back. Since then, she says, the payback has been used against her. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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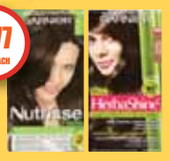

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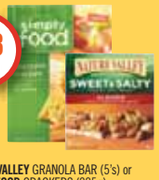

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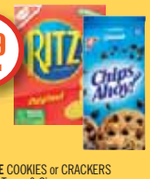

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Garment workers in Bangladesh skeptical of regulation changes

Anniversary of disaster. The owner of the Rana Plaza, whose collapse killed over 1,000, is now behind bars

Relatives of victims mourn on the anniversary of last year's garment factory collapse in Savar, near Dhaka, Bangladesh on April 24. A.M. AHAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One year after the Rana Plaza garment factory collapsed in a pile of concrete slabs, Bangladeshi seamstress Shefali says she would rather starve than return to factory work.

Like many survivors of the worst disaster the garment industry has ever seen, 18-year-old Shefali, who goes by one name, says she suffers from depression and has flashbacks of the catastrophe that killed more than 1,100 people. She was injured in the collapse that happened a year ago Thursday and has lingering back pain.

"We die, we suffer, nobody takes care of us," Shefali said.

There have been some significant developments. The owner of the illegally constructed Rana Plaza building is behind bars, pending an investigation. The owners of the five factories operating inside the building also have been detained. Authorities also say they aim to ensure no new factories are built without following safety regulations.

However, many garment workers are skeptical that there will be any lasting change. Some of the Rana Plaza workers have left the garment industry. Others returned to a job many see as a way out of poverty.

When the Rana Plaza collapsed on April 24, 2013, thousands were toiling inside. The final death toll was 1,135 people, and thousands were rescued. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Subcontracting

Working in the industry

Bangladesh has one of the lowest minimum wages in the world — about $66 a month — yet makes goods for the world's leading retailers.

The structure of the garment industry is also viewed as problematic.

A study by New York University's Stern School of Business says an "essential feature" of the sector involves factories subcontracting work to workshops with worse conditions.

Sarah Labowitz, co-author of the report, said that these subcontracting factories cause concerns about workers' rights and safety. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ukraine. Putin responds to operation to drive out Pro-Russian insurgents

A Ukrainian soldier sits on his armoured vehicle at a checkpoint near the village of Artemiovska on April 24. MANU BRABO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia announced new military exercises Thursday involving ground and air forces near its border with Ukraine, in response to a Ukrainian operation to drive pro-Russia insurgents out of buildings in the country's tumultuous east.

Russian President Vladimir Putin responded to the Ukrainian move, which killed at least two people, by denouncing it as a "punitive operation."

"If the Kyiv government is using the army against its own people, this is clearly a grave crime," Putin said.

His statement and the announcement of new military manoeuvres by Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu sharpened anxiety over the prospect of a Russian incursion into Ukraine.

The Russian exercises were denounced by U.S. Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel. If such activities escalate, it will be more difficult to find a diplomatic solution in Ukraine, Hagel said.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned that the crisis could "spin out of control." Tensions between Moscow and Kyiv have been high since the ousting of Russia-friendly president Viktor Yanukovych in February.

Russia contends the new government consists of nationalists who aim to suppress the large Russian-speaking population in Ukraine's east. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Meanwhile in Russia

Putin's main critic fined for slander

A Moscow judge on Tuesday left open the possibility of jailing President Vladimir Putin's main critic for years, a sign of Putin's increasingly hard-line rule against opponents.

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was fined $8,400 on Tuesday for slandering a lawmaker. His second trial starts Thursday, and prosecutors are expected to ask for jail pending a trial. If there's a guilty verdict at that trial, he could get a prison term.

Navalny was nearly jailed last summer, when he was running a high-profile mayoral campaign in Moscow, but the Kremlin figured then he would be more useful if allowed to run. Putin has portrayed his critics as "national traitors." Russians opposing his actions in Ukraine have been compared to the Bolsheviks, who used Russia's defeat in World War I to carry out their revolution in 1917.

In July, Navalny was found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison in a criminal probe. After protests, prosecutors petitioned to suspend his sentence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Indiana. Cat and owner reunited five years after feline went missing

A cat that went missing five years ago has been reunited with its owner in Indiana thanks to an implanted microchip.

According to local news reports, 10-year-old Charlie showed up at Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control on Monday. Workers there scanned the cat and discovered Charlie had a microchip that identified Virginia Fryback of Fort Wayne as his owner.

`The microchip might have saved Charlie's life. Shelter spokeswoman Peggy Bender says most people adopt much younger cats.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami Beach

Popcorn machine fire causes theatre to evacuate

A small fire that started in a popcorn machine caused the evacuation of a Miami Beach movie theatre.

Officials say the smoke alarm sounded about 7:25 p.m. Wednesday inside the Regal South Beach theatre.

Miami Beach firefighters quickly extinguished the fire.

Miami television station WSVN showed moviegoers covering their faces as they left the smoky theatre. Employees wore masks as they helped customers get out of the building. One employee was checked by rescue crews but is expected to be OK.

The theatre was expected to reopen Thursday after crews clean up the concession stand. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First images of ship wreckage released

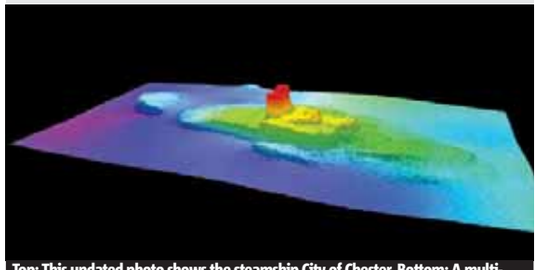
Sank in 1888. The remains of the boat were discovered more than 125 years later just inside the Golden Gate Bridge

The first images of the newly discovered wreckage of a steamship that sank in San Francisco Bay in 1888, killing 16 people, were released Wednesday by federal ocean scientists.

The wood and iron steamship City of Chester went down on Aug. 22, 1888, after it was struck in dense fog by a larger ship.

More than 125 years later, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration team found the shipwreck in 217 feet of water just inside the Golden Gate Bridge.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Top: This undated photo shows the steamship City of Chester. Bottom: A multi-beam sonar profile of the wreckage of the ship. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AND SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

A historical display

The crew used a multi-beam sonic imaging system to capture three-dimensional images of the wreckage.

- The NOAA researchers then put together research about what happened, and found newspaper articles and transcripts of testimony from the accident investigation.
- A display featuring the images and history of the shipwreck is planned at San Francisco's Crissy Field.
- The field looks out over the spot where the Chester sank, just in front of the Golden Gate Bridge.

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Ontario lawyers spurn Christian law school

B.C.'s Trinity Western. Law Society votes against accrediting law school that bans gay sexual intimacy

The Law Society of Upper Canada's directors voted 28 to 21 Thursday against accrediting the B.C.'s Trinity Western University law school, meaning graduates will not be able to apply to the Ontario bar. There was one abstention.

The controversial Christian university wants to open the law school in 2016 and has the conditional approval of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, the go-ahead from the B.C. government, and — most recently — accreditation from the Law Society of British Columbia.

Controversy over the school has centred on the school's "community covenant" — a five-page document students must sign that includes a promise to abstain from "sexual intimacy that violates the sacredness of marriage between a man and a woman."

Bob Kuhn, president of Trinity Western University, had made a plea to law society benchers (directors) Thursday morning, suggesting to vote no would be akin to "institutional bullying."

Even some of the 21 benchers who supported accreditation, took advantage of deliberations to say they did so against their own personal beliefs.

The issue has become so contentious a Victoria lawyer has gathered more than 1,100 signatures to hold a new B.C. Law Society meeting to try to reverse the decision and lawyers based in Toronto and B.C. have filed a lawsuit against the B.C. government for approving the school in the first place. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"(Trinity Western is not) a university of bigotry or a university of intolerance ... Students leave saying, 'I love this place.'" Bob Kuhn, president of Trinity Western University.

Lonely Doug's not the tallest

Hannah Carpendale helps ecologist Andy MacKinnon measure the crown spread of "Big Lonely Doug" to confirm the Douglas fir near Port Renfrew, on southern Vancouver Island, is officially the second-largest in Canada. The 1,000-year-old tree stands about as tall as an 18-storey building and has a diameter of 11.91 metres. The largest Douglas fir, in the San Juan River Valley, 20 kilometres east of Big Lonely Doug, is 73.8 metres tall and has a circumference of 13.28 metres. COURTESY TJ WATT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dirty money? U.S. wants to seize cash allegedly linked to ex-South Korean dictator

U.S. officials on Thursday sought court permission to seize more than $700,000 US from the sale of a Southern California home they allege was bought with corrupt money provided by South Korea's former dictator.

Authorities said Chun Jae Yong, son of former president Chun Doo-hwan, bought a Newport Beach home in 2005 with money provided through bribes that were given to his father. The home was sold in February for about $2.1 million US, and federal officials seized net sale proceeds of nearly $727,000 US that were placed in an escrow account, according to the forfeiture complaint. With court approval, the money will be turned over to the South Korean government.

Chun Doo-hwan, a former army general, seized power in a 1979 coup and ruled the country until early 1988.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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No more lazy dog-day afternoons for man's best friend with Whistle

Is your pooch getting a pooch? A new activity tracker for Fido can help pet parents know if their precious pups aren't getting enough exercise

Bad news for lazy dogs: A new device, called Whistle, lets pet owners track how much exercise — or sleep — their four-legged friends are getting.

Whistle is similar to popular activity trackers designed for humans. It wraps around a dog's collar and syncs with a smartphone app, collecting data on how much activity and rest the pet had.

We tried it out on a dog, who would much rather sleep under the couch than chase a ball. It's no surprise to find out that the pup wasn't getting at least 30 minutes of movement a day.

Whistle pushes owners to take their dogs out on more walks for longer periods.

At $129 US, it is as pricey as some of the latest human fitness trackers from the likes of FitBit and Jawbone.

One major difference: Whistle syncs data to its app through Wi-Fi, as well as Bluetooth. That lets you check up on your dogs without being near them, so you can track how much exercise your dog is getting when left with dog walkers, a doggy day care or family and friends.

The Whistle app, available for Apple and Android smartphones, is nicely designed. Multiple people can download the app and see the same data through the same account, which is great if others help care for your dog.

While this dog is clearly in fabulous shape, the Whistle activity tracker he is wearing can help his owner see if he is getting enough activity. WHISTLE LABS INC./THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Whistle looks slick. It is round and is made of stainless steel. It weighs less than an ounce. It is about 1.5 inches wide and less than half-an-inch thick.

The device locks on to a rubber strap that is then wrapped around the dog collar to help it stay in place.

Because it is waterproof, dogs can take the Whistle with them for a swim, the company says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dog spy games

The app lists how much rest and activity the dog gets in a day. You can also add what the dog ate, what medication you gave it and any additional notes or photos you want.

- The app looks like a Facebook timeline. You can scroll down to see what the dog has done during the day. You can also swipe the screen from left to right to see what the dog did on past days.

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In a bit of a pickle.

London's Gherkin tower going into receivership

Accountancy firm Deloitte LLP said it has been appointed receiver of one of London's most iconic buildings, the Gherkin.

The 41-storey office tower in London's financial district is co-owned by Germany's IVG Immobilien AG, which went into bankruptcy protection last year.

Deloitte said Thursday that the building had run into difficulties due to its "complex, multicurrency capital structure."

Deloitte's Neville Kahn said "lenders were reluctant to appoint a receiver but felt they had no choice due to the ongoing defaults" since 2009.

Kahn said the receivers' aim was to preserve the value of a "truly exceptional building" and to ensure there would be no interruption of services to tenants. The Norman Foster-designed tower, nicknamed the Gherkin for its distinctive pickle-like shape, houses offices of insurance company Swiss Re.

The Gherkin looms over London's Tower Bridge and the Tower of London. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 90.68 (+0.03)

TSX 14,554.25 (+20.86)

OIL $101.94 US ($0.50)

GOLD $1,290.60 US (+$6.00)

Natural gas: $4.68 US (-$0.04)
Dow Jones: 16,501.65 (unchanged)

Going digital

Grand & Toy's bricks-and-mortar stores closing

A 132-year-old institution is closing its last retail stores. OfficeMax Grand & Toy announced Thursday all of its remaining 19 bricks-and-mortar outlets across the country will shut down.

The historic office supplies chain, an affiliate of global office products provider Office Depot Inc., said it will continue to do business online.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hot sauce

A cooldown in the heated tiff over Sriracha factory

A cooling-off period has been called in the fight between the makers of Sriracha hot sauce and the Southern California city that says its air is too spicy to bear.

The Irwindale City Council delayed a decision for two weeks Wednesday night on declaring the Sriracha plant a public nuisance.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIDDLE CLASS SOARS, AIRLINE TUMBLES

It's time for The List, Metro's unerring guide to what's hot this week.

1 The Canadian middle class. Really? Yep, it's all the buzz around Timmy Hos. No less an authority than The New York Times says Canada's middle class has passed the U.S. as having the highest after-tax middle-class incomes in the world. Booyah! Too bad for Justin Trudeau, who has based his entire platform on the collapse of the middle class. Right idea, wrong country, maybe.

THE METRO LIST

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

2 Twit trending on Twitter. Remember the name Cliven Bundy, as it is now synonymous with the last gasp of unreconstructed racism in America. This bad old boy — and until recently a Tea Party hero — has been caught on camera airing his views on "the Negro." "They abort their young children; they put young men in jail, because they never learned how to pick cotton." Oh, and "I've often wondered, are they better off as slaves ..." Rancher Bundy was a right-wing poster boy for defying the U.S. government over grazing rights, but those howls are coming from former supporters breaking their ankles after leaping off the bandwagon.

3 Tyler Oakley, born again. With more than 137 million views and 4 million subscribers, LGBT advocate Tyler Oakley is a giant of the Internet. But in the words of his mom Jackie, he was once seven pounds and 12 ounces ... exactly 24 years ago to be precise. In his latest video, Tyler and his mom resurrect a VHS tape of his birth and watch the blessed event together. It's the first time Tyler's seen it and his reactions ("I look like a baby zombie gremlin!") are more fun than the actual event.

4 Air Canada has a bad, bad week. Not only were Air Canada baggage handlers caught casually tossing bags six or seven metres from the door of a plane into a bin below, a new survey shows that Air Canada has the second rudest flight attendants of any airline in North America, just behind Spite, er, Spirit. The best were Southwest and Alaska. In the interest of fairness, Air Canada was voted the best international airline in North America in 2011, but really, what has it done for us lately?

5 Jodi Foster has a good week. She marries Alexandra Hedison, photographer, actor (The L Word) and Ellen DeGeneres's ex-girlfriend. Hollywood. Such a small town.

6 Triumph of the underdog. Snatching victory from the jaws of defeat, the Montreal Canadiens may be the only Canadian team to make the NHL playoffs, but after sweeping the Tampa Bay Lightning in the first round, they may be more than enough to keep Canadian hearts glowing. At the same time, American Meb Keflezighi wins the Boston marathon, the first American man to do so since 1983. Meb was born in Eritrea, land of marathoners, but he's been in the U.S. since 1987, so during a year when Americans desperately wanted their legendary race back on an, um, secure footing, his victory counts as one for Team USA.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

ZOOM

Heavy metal's pawsome fans

COURTESY ALEXANDRA CROCKETT

Metalheads have soft spot for cats

It's hard to imagine metal musicians being especially affectionate. But beneath the darkness is a softer side as photographer Alexandra Crockett reveals in her book Metal Cats. Her images capture hard-core metalheads as they pose with their felines. METRO

Q and A

Just a silly idea

ALEXANDRA CROCKETT
Photographer, 30, based in Oakland, Calif.

How did this photo series come about?

I texted about 30 of my metalhead male friends who I knew had cats. I said, 'Hey, if I did this kind of, like, silly weird idea, what would you think about that?' And they were all like, 'Oh my God, I really want to!' The project took me four years as I travelled along the West Coast.

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MetroTube

metro AR Most daring BASE jumpers

ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

YOUTUBESCREENGRAB

If there's one thing that illicit leaps from Whistler gondolas and some of America's tallest buildings teach you, it's that it's hard to keep a good BASE jumper down. But the idea of sneaking to the peak of Dubai's Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, is likely a leap too far.

So what's the plan for hopefuls wanting to drop from the uppermost height of human construction? There's not really much you can do but bide your time and keep your fingers crossed for an invite. That seemed to work out just fine for champion jumpers Vince Reffet and Fred Fugen. (Via Skydive Dubai)

metro

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Fiesta ST model shown

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6.9L/100km 41MPG CITY^^

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DOWN	BI-WEEKLY
$0	$139**
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What women don't want

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Leslie Mann, Cameron Diaz and Kate Upton are three women wronged in The Other Woman, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Synopsis

Married man Mark King (Game of Thrones's Nikolaj Coster-Waldau) tries to push infidelity to Tiger Woodsian heights by cheating on his wife (Leslie Mann) with multiple mistresses, including Carly and Amber (Cameron Diaz and Kate Upton). "We got played by the same guy," says Carly. The three women form an unlikely friendship, drowning their sorrows in a sea of tequila shots before hatching a plan to humiliate and financially ruin the three timer.

- Richard: ●●●○○
- Mark: ●●○○○

The Other Woman.
Revenge comedy falls to tired stereotypes on how women view men, but at least the outfits are chic

Richard: Mark, with The Notebook, director Nick Cassavetes made one of the most romantic movies of recent years. With The Other Woman, his pendulum has swung in the opposite direction. This is an anti-romance flick about sex, lies and adultery but it's ripe with laughs and some fun performances. Mann goes all in as a Lucille Ball-on-the-verge-of-a-nervous-breakdown type, Diaz has great comic timing, and even Kate Upton, who will never be accused of giving Meryl Streep a run for her money, is charming and funny. It's not Bridemaids funny, but I laughed out loud quite a few times. You?

Mark: Is it possible to like a movie but hate its sexual politics? Because that's how I felt about it. I laughed, especially when Leslie Mann was onscreen. This movie is certainly her personal best. She's amazingly loose and funny, especially in the first third of the film. But the revenge plot against the cheating husband left me feeling queasy. He's set up as such a cardboard lothario that he made the Kate Upton character look deep. There's a positive male role model in the film, Mann's brother, but he's so anodyne and threatless that I couldn't take him seriously as a character. The movie is interesting as a series of Rorschach tests about how women must view men — either cads or eunuchs — but I had to banish these thoughts or I couldn't enjoy the comedy.

RC: I see what you're saying, and I suppose the film is a bit mean-spirited and not terribly subtle in its examination of the dynamics between men and women, but it does get the girl power stuff right, and I think that's more the point of the film. This isn't a movie about the men; they are simply the McGuffins that forward the plot. This is a movie about female bonding rather than female blaming.

MB: Anyway, at least it's a good-looking movie, and the women's outfits are chic. Don Johnson is given a part that's more than a cameo, but less than a role. I think he could have been onscreen more with a beefed-up part. But Nicki Minaj, as Diaz' assistant, steals every scene she's in. I thought she was a hoot. Richard, did the soundtrack bother you? Such obvious choices, like New York, New York when the husband enters the city, or the Mission: Impossible theme when the three women tail the husband to find out what he's up to.

RC: Absolutely. The soundtrack is as subtle as Coster-Waldau's cheesy pick-up lines. Five minutes in, I was willing to bet Girls Just Wanna Have Fun would play … and I would have won that bet.

MB: And I bet the women will cheer and the men will groan at this flick.

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The sequel to The Amazing Spider-Man is gaining a lot of buzz for its bounty of baddies, and with more than 50 years of pulp-fiction history, the comic-book character certainly has many to choose from. At Metro, we only feel it's our responsibility to inform the public of the upcoming blockbuster's nefarious criminals.

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

The villains of Spider-Man

Green Goblin

Alias: The Goblin, Harry Osborn

Played by: Dane DeHaan

The folklore: The genetically ill heir to unethical Oscorp Industries, Harry Osborn seeks vengeance on Spidey after the webslinger refuses a potentially life-altering blood transfusion. In the Marvel universe, after taking a formula, Osborn gets enhanced strength and equips himself with a "goblin glider," exploding pumpkin bombs and, consequently, a pretty knockout Halloween costume.

First comic book appearance: 1965 (Amazing Spider-Man #31)

Electro

Alias: Maxwell Dillon

Played by: Jamie Foxx

The Folklore: An electrical engineer that accidentally gains mutagenic powers that enables him to capacitate electricity (and then shoot it from his fingertips, naturally), Electro turns from a shy, introverted Spider-Man fan to power-hungry vengeance seeker who unites with the Green Goblin in order to gain fame.

First comic book appearance: 1964 (Amazing Spider-Man #9)

The Rhino

Alias: "Hornhead", Aleksei Sytsevich

Played by: Paul Giamatti

The Folklore: The Rhino may historically be a Russian thug that participated in an experiment that bonded his skin to be hard as nails but in this film, he teams up with Goblin and gets outfitted with a heavily-armoured suit that enables him to become a raging, machine gun-toting maniac of destruction.

First comic book appearance: 1966 (Amazing Spider-Man #41)

Nothing but bad guys

Producer Avi Arad has announced The Amazing Spider-Man franchise will spin off a movie featuring Spidey's villains called The Sinister Six. Here's a peek at who may (or may not) make up the other three mischief-makers:

Vulture – An electromagnetic tailored body harness allows this legendary Spider-Man crook great strength and the ability to fly despite his deceptively mature age. Suggested casting: Larry David

Kraven the Hunter – A maniacal Russian hunter with superhuman strength, Kraven wants to defeat Spider-Man to prove he's the greatest gamesman in the world. Suggested casting: Phil Robertson from Duck Dynasty

Mysterio – According to folklore, this creepy illusionist isn't much more than a frustrated failed magician with some sort of goldfish bowl over his head. Suggested casting: Music performer deadmau5

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The Hobbit. Peter Jackson renames the final instalment of his Tolkien trilogy

Peter Jackson. AFP

The final instalment of the blockbuster Hobbit film trilogy has been given a new name, director Peter Jackson announced on Thursday.

The movie was to have been released this year under the title, The Hobbit: There and Back Again, but has been re-named The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies, the New Zealand filmmaker said on his Facebook page.

It is due for release in North America on December 17, bringing to a climax the story started in 2012's The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey and last year's The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug.

"Our journey to make The Hobbit Trilogy has been in some ways like Bilbo's own, with hidden paths revealing their secrets to us as we've gone along," the Oscar-winning director said.

"There and Back Again felt like the right name for the second of a two film telling of the quest to reclaim Erebor, when Bilbo's arrival there, and departure, were both contained within the second film.

"But with three movies, it suddenly felt misplaced — after all, Bilbo has already arrived 'there' in the Desolation of Smaug."

Jackson said he broached the issue with studio giant Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer last year.

"We decided to keep an open mind until a cut of the film was ready to look at," he said. "We reached that point last week, and after viewing the movie, we all agreed there is now one title that feels completely appropriate. And so, The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies it is."

There and Back Again was the subtitle of the classic epic fantasy book by J.R.R. Tolkien, published in 1937.

It was followed in the mid 1950s by the Lord of the Rings trilogy, which Jackson also made into a blockbuster franchise, before the Hobbit films.

Jackson came under fire from some quarters in 2012, when the first film The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey was released, for breaking the relatively short book into a trilogy.

The director won three Oscars — best picture, best director and best adapted screenplay — for the 2003 film The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King, the final part of that trilogy.

AFP

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com. **Ratings:** *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:*

Mystery/Drama

Bethlehem

Director. Yuval Adler

Stars. Tsahi Halevi, Shadi Mar'i

Bethlehem tells the story of the complex relationship between an Israeli Secret Service officer and his teenage Palestinian informant. Shuttling back and forth between conflicting points of view, the film is a raw portrayal of characters torn apart by competing loyalties and impossible moral dilemmas, giving an unparalleled glimpse into the dark and fascinating world of human intelligence.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 78% **Audience:** 80%

Drama/Action

Brick Mansions

Director. Camille Delamarre

Stars. Paul Walker, David Belle

In a dystopian Detroit, abandoned brick mansions left from better times now house only the most dangerous criminals. Unable to control the crime, the police constructed a colossal containment wall around this area to protect the rest of the city. For undercover cop Damien Collier (Paul Walker) every day is a battle against corruption. For Lino (David Belle), every day is a fight to live an honest life.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet **Audience:** 94%

Drama

A Fighting Man

Director. Wally Pfister

Stars. James Caan, Louis Gossett Jr.

An aging fighter (Dominic Purcell) in search of redemption steps into the ring with a hungry young pugilist (Izaak Smith) with something to prove in this boxing drama featuring James Caan and Louis Gossett, Jr. The film also features Famke Janssen, Kim Coates, Adam Beach, Sheila McCarthy and Michael Ironside.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet **Audience:**

Horror

The Quiet Ones

Director. John Pogue

Stars. Jared Harris, Sam Claflin

From the producer who brought you The Woman In Black and Let Me In comes the unnerving tale of The Quiet Ones. Tucked away in an estate outside of London, Professor Coupland along with a team of university students conduct an "experiment" on Jane Harper, a young girl who harbours unspeakable secrets. What dark forces they uncover are more terrifying than any of them expected.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 50% **Audience:** 85%

Mystery /Suspense

In the Blood

Director. John Stockwell

Stars. Gina Carano, Cam Gigandet

Gina Carano stars as Ava, a trained fighter with a dark past. When her new husband (Cam Gigandet) vanishes during their Caribbean honeymoon, Ava uncovers a violent underworld of conspiracy in the middle of an island paradise. Armed with a deadly set of skills, Ava sets out to discover the truth — and to take down the men she thinks are responsible for his abduction, one by one.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 41% **Audience:** 45%

Drama/Comedy

Dom Hemingway

Director. Richard Shepard

Stars. Jude Law, Richard E. Grant

Jude Law plays Dom Hemingway, a larger-than-life safecracker with a loose fuse who is funny, profane, and dangerous. After 12 years in prison, he sets off with his partner in crime Dickie (Richard E. Grant) looking to collect what he's owed for keeping his mouth shut and protecting his boss Mr. Fontaine (Demian Bichir). After a near-death experience, Dom tries to reconnect with his estranged daughter (Emilia Clarke).

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 55% **Audience:** 40%

Crack open the maple syrup and settle in

National Canadian Film Day. Homegrown cinema lovers have plenty to choose from on April 29

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Bon Cop, Bad Cop is one of the films on offer on April 29. CONTRIBUTED

"For the past nine years, Reel Canada has been introducing young people and new Canadians to great Canadian films and the response has been overwhelmingly positive," says Jack Blum, executive director of Reel Canada.

This year on Tuesday, April 29, the Can-con boosters are kicking their outreach up a notch with the establishment of National Canadian Film Day.

"We thought it would be great for one day a year to extend that invitation to all Canadians," Blum says. "We just believe that if we can overcome the 'awareness' barrier created by the huge promotional budgets Hollywood commands for its product, that people will embrace our fantastic legacy of great cinema."

To help celebrate the inaugural National Canadian Film Day, Cineplex has donated screens to show a variety of homegrown films, including the festival hit C.R.A.Z.Y. and Paul Gross's Passchendaele. The Reel Canada website boasts that great Canadian films will be "available in more communities on a single day than ever before in our nation's history."

"There are screenings happening all over the country," says Blum, "literally in every province and territory as well as online and on TV. Of course, if you're in Toronto, the place to be is the Royal on College, where Bruce McDonald and Don McKellar will be presenting Highway 61 and Last Night."

Blum waves the flag when discussing the importance of exposure to Canadian films. "Canadian movies reflect Canadian experience. Period. When people see themselves and their world depicted on screen it gives them a stronger sense of where they live and what community or communities they belong to."

FROM THE PRODUCER OF THE WOMAN IN BLACK AND LET ME IN
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STARTS TODAY Check Theatre Directory for Locations and Showtimes.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., APR. 25 TO THURS., MAY 1. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Bytowne Cinema
325 Rideau St.

Alan Partridge (14A) Fri 9:05 Sat 6:50 Sun 2:01
Bad Words (14A) Sun 6:40 Mon 8:55 Tue 4:30 Wed 6:59
Bethlehem (14A) Fri 6:50 Sat 2:30-9:10 Sun 8:55 Mon-Tue 6:45 Wed 9:15 Thu 4:45
Enemy (18A) Tue 8:55 Wed 5:01 Thu 6:55
Sagrada - The Mystery of Creation (STC) Fri-Sat 4:45
Singin' in the Rain (PG) Sun 4:20 Mon 4:30
Triptyque (14A) Thu 8:59

Canadian Museum of nature
240 McLeod St.

Flying Monsters 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:30 Fri-Sun 12:35-3:05
Penguins 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 10:30-1:10-3:40 Fri-Sun 11:15-1:50

Coliseum Ottawa
3090 Carling Ave.

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 7-10:20
Bears (G) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:20-4:40-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:40-7-9:30
Brick Mansions (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:45 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:30-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 Mon-Thu 4-7:10-10:20
Divergent (PG) Fri 12:20-3:30-7-10:15 Sat 7-10:15 Sun 12:20-3:30-7-10:15 Mon-Wed 3:45-6:50-10 Thu 3:45-6:50
Heaven Is for Real (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:20-6:40-9:40 Mon-Wed 3:50-6:40-9:40 Thu 1:15-3:50-6:40-9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Così fan tutte (STC) Sat 12:55
Muppets Most Wanted (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:10 Mon-Wed 4:10 Thu 1:25-4:10
National Theatre Live: King Lear (STC) Thu 7
Noah (14A) Fri 12:50-4-7:10-10:35 Sat 7:10-10:35 Sun 4-7:10-10:35 Mon-Wed 3:40-6:45-9:45 Thu 3:40-9:45
Oculus (14A) Fri-Thu 7:20-9:50
The Other Woman (STC) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 No Passes Mon-Wed 5:20-8-10:35 No Passes Thu 6:40-10:35 No Passes Thu 3:40 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
The Princess Bride (STC) Sun 12:45
The Quiet Ones (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Mon-Wed 5:15-7:50-10:20 Thu 1:35-5:15-7:50-10:20
Rio 2 (G) Fri-Sun 12 Thu 1:30
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:30-5:05-7:40-10:10 Mon-Wed 5:05-7:40-10:10 Thu 4-10:10
Trailer Park Boys: Don't Legalize It (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:45 Mon-Wed 4:20-6:50-9:50 Thu 1:10-4:20-6:50-9:50
Transcendence (PG) Fri 2-4:50-7:40-10:30 Sat 1-4-7:40-10:30 Sun 2-4:50-7:40-10:30 Mon-Wed 4:50-7:40-10:30 Thu 1:20-4:50-7:40-10:30

Mayfair Theatre
1074 Bank St.

Algonquin (PG) Thu 7
August: Osage County (14A) Sun 7
Blue Eyed Giant (STC) Sun 4
C.R.A.Z.Y. (STC) Tue 6:30
Canadian Cameos Archival Short Films (STC) Tue 9:15
Horror Remix: Love (STC) Fri 11:30
The Husband (14A) Thu 9:30
The LEGO Movie (G) Sat 1:30-3:45 Sun 1:30
The Lunchbox (PG) Fri 6:30 Sat 6:15 Mon 6:30 Tue 4:15 Wed 6:30 Thu 4:45
Special ID (STC) Fri 9:15 Sat 9 Sun 9:30
Super Secret Saturday Night Sinema (STC) Sat 11:15
Tim's Vermeer (PG) Fri 4:30 Mon 4:30-8:45 Wed 4:30-8:45

Rainbow Cinemas
St. Laurent Centre,
1200 St. Laurent Blvd.,

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Thu 9:55-7:30
300: Rise of an Empire (18A) Fri-Thu 10:10-4:25-9:10
Bad Words (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-2:25-7
Frozen (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:45-5
The LEGO Movie (G) Fri-Thu 10-12:10-2:20-4:35-6:50
The Monuments Men (PG) Fri-Thu 3:50-8:55
Non-Stop (PG) Fri-Thu 10:30-1:10-6:40
The Raid 2 (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-7:20
Son of God (PG) Fri-Thu 10:20-4:20
Veronica Mars (PG) Fri-Thu 9:05

South Keys
2214 Bank St.

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 7-10:15
Bears (G) Fri-Wed 10:50-1-3:05-5:15-7:15-9:15 Thu 10:50-1-3:05-5:15-7:15
Brick Mansions (PG) Fri-Wed 10:35-12:55-3:15-5:35-7:55-10:15 Thu 10:35-12:55-3:15-5:35-7:55-10:20
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-7-10:05
Divergent (PG) Fri 12:20-3:30-6:45-9:45 Sat 6:45-9:45 Sun-Wed 12:20-3:30-6:45-9:45 Thu 12:20-3:30-9:45
The Grand Budapest Hotel (14A) Fri 10:30-12:50-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10 Sat 12:50-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10 Sun-Thu 10:30-12:50-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10
Heaven Is for Real (PG) Fri-Thu 11:20-2-4:30-7:05-9:30
Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG) Sat 11
The Metropolitan Opera: Così fan tutte (STC) Sat 12:55
National Theatre Live: King Lear (STC) Thu 7
Noah (14A) Fri 12:40-3:50-6:55-9:55 Sat 6:55-9:55 Sun-Wed 12:40-3:50-6:55-9:55 Thu 12:40-3:50-9:55
The Other Woman (STC) No Passes Fri 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10 No Passes Sat 11-1:35-4:10-7:30-10:10 No Passes Sun-Thu 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10
The Quiet Ones (14A) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:25-9:50
Rio 2 (G) Fri-Thu 10:25 Fri-Thu 11:10-1:45
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri-Thu 4:20-6:50-9:20
Trailer Park Boys: Don't Legalize It (14A) Fri-Wed 12-2:30-5-7:20-9:40 Thu 11:40-2:05-4:35-7:20-9:40
Transcendence (PG) Fri-Thu 10:40-1:25-4:15-7:10-10

Canadian Museum of civilization
100 rue Laurier,

Destination Pacific Sud 3D (STC) Fri 4-6 Sat 1-6 Sun-Mon 1 Tue 11-2 Wed 4 Thu 1 Grand Nord (STC) Sat 4 Thu 11-6
Great North (STC) Sat 3 Sun 12 Tue 12-3 Grèce (STC) Fri 1
Journey to the South Pacific: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) Fri 11-2-5-7 Sat 11-2-5-8 Sun 11-2-5 Mon 11-2 Tue 1-5-7 Wed 10-12-2-5 Thu 11-2-5-8
Kenya 3D: Animal Kingdom (STC) Fri 12-3 Sat 12-7 Sun 3-6 Mon 12 Tue 6 Wed 3-6 Thu 12-3 Fri-Sat 8 Tue 4 Wed 7 Thu 10-4-7
L' incroyable voyage des papillons 3D (STC) Wed 11-1

Cinéma Aylmer
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The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (G) Thu 7-9
Captain America: The Winter Soldier (G) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:30 Mon 6:40 Tue 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:30
Fermières (G) Fri-Sun 1:10-3-7:10-9 Mon 7:10 Tue 1:10-3-7:10-9 Wed-Thu 7:10-9
Rio 2 (G) Fri 1-7-9:10 Sat 10-1-7-9:10 Sun 1-7-9:10 Mon 7 Tue 1-7-9:10 Wed 7-9:10 Thu 7 Fri 3:10 Sat 10-3:10 Sun 3:10 Tue 3:10
Transcendence (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:20-6:50-9:20 Mon 6:50 Tue 12:50-3:20-6:50-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:20

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Assaut extrême (13+) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:05-7-9:10 Mon 7-9:10 Tue 12:45-3:05-7-9:10 Wed-Thu 7-9:10
Capitaine America: Le soldat de l'hiver 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:15-6:45-9:30 Mon 6:45-9:30 Tue 12:15-3:15-6:45-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:45-9:30
Casse-tête chinois (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:30-6:45-9:40 Mon 6:45-9:40 Tue 12:50-3:30-6:45-9:40 Wed-Thu 6:45-9:40
Divergence (G) Fri-Sun 3:25-6:30-9:20 Mon 6:30-9:20 Tue 3:25-6:30-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:20
En solitaire (G) Fri-Sun 1:20-3:45-7:20 Mon 7:20 Tue 1:20-3:45-7:20 Wed-Thu 7:20
Grizzlis (G) Fri-Sun 1:15-3:45-7:10 Mon 7:10 Tue 1:15-3:45-7:10 Wed 7:10
L'autre femme (G) Fri-Sun 1-3:40-6:50-9:35 Mon 6:50-9:35 Tue 1-3:40-6:50-9:35 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:35
L'extraordinaire Spider-Man 2 3D (G) Thu 7-9:50
Oculus (13+) Fri-Thu 9:50
Rio 2 (G) Fri-Sun 3:05 Tue 3:05
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-7:05-9:25 Mon 7:05-9:25 Tue 12:30-7:05-9:25 Wed 7:05-9:25
Transcendence (G) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:10-7:15-9:45 Mon 7:15-9:45 Tue 12:20-3:10-7:15-9:45 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:45
Un week-end à Paris (G) Fri-Sun 1:10-9 Mon 9 Tue 1:10-9 Wed-Thu 9

StarCité Hull
115 boul. du Plateau

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (G) No Passes Thu 7:05-10:05
Bears (G) Fri 1:50-3:50-5:50-7:50-9:50 Sat 11:15-1:50-3:50-5:50-7:50-9:50 Sun 1:50-3:50-5:50-7:50-9:50 Mon 7:50-9:50 Tue 1:50-3:50-5:50-7:50-9:50 Wed-Thu 7:50-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1:30
Brick Mansions (13+) Fri 1:30-3:45-6-8:15-10:30 Sat 11:20-1:30-3:45-6-8:15-10:30 Sun 1:30-3:45-6-8:15-10:30 Mon 7:40-9:45 Tue 1:30-3:45-6-8:15-10:30 Wed 7:40-9:45 Thu 1:20-7:45-9:50
Capitaine America: Le soldat de l'hiver 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 Mon 7:10-10 Tue 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 Wed 7:10-10 Thu 1:25-7:10-10
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Mon 7:10-10 Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Wed 7:10-10 Thu 1:10-7:10-10
Divergent (G) Fri 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:30 Sat 1:15-7:25-10:30 Sun 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:30 Mon 7:05-10 Tue 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:30 Wed 7:05-10 Thu 1:05
Fermières (G) Fri 1:25 Sat 11:20-1:25 Sun 1:25 Tue 1:25 Thu 1:40
Heaven Is for Real (G) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:20-5:35-8:05-10:30 Mon 7:25-9:40 Tue 1:05-3:20-5:35-8:05-10:30 Wed 7:25-9:40 Thu 1:30-7:25-9:40
Ice Age: The Meltdown (G) Sat 11
L'autre femme (G) No Passes Fri 1:40-4:15-7:20-9:55 No Passes Sat 11:05-1:40-4:15-7:20-9:55 No Passes Sun 2:10-4:45-7:20-9:55 No Passes Mon 7:20-9:55 No Passes Tue 1:40-4:15-7:20-9:55 No Passes Wed-Thu 7:20-9:55 No Passes Thu 1:15
L'extraordinaire Spider-Man 2 3D (G) No Passes Thu 7-10
L'Hotel Grand Budapest (G) Fri 1:30-3:55-7:05-9:30 Sat 1:30-4:15-7:05-9:30 Sun 2:05-4:35-7:05-9:30 Mon 7:20-9:35 Tue 1:30-3:55-7:05-9:30 Wed 7:20-9:35 Thu 1:35-7:20-9:35
The Metropolitan Opera: Così fan tutte (STC) Sat 12:55
Noah (G) Fri 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Sat 4:30-7:30-10:30 Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Mon 7:05-9:55 Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Wed 7:05-9:55 Thu 1:05
Nos voisins les hommes (G) Sat 11
The Other Woman (G) No Passes Fri 1:45-4:20-7:50-10:25 No Passes Sat 11:10-1:45-4:20-7:50-10:25 No Passes Sun 2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25 No Passes Mon 7:35-10 No Passes Tue 1:45-4:20-7:50-10:25 No Passes Wed-Thu 7:35-10 No Passes Thu 1:50
The Quiet Ones (13+) Fri 1:05-3:25-5:45-7:55-10:20 Sat 12:40-3:05-5:30-7:55-10:20 Sun 1:05-3:25-5:45-7:55-10:20 Mon 7:35-9:55 Tue 1:05-3:25-5:45-7:55-10:20 Wed 7:35-9:55 Thu 1:30-7:35-9:55
Rio 2 (G) Fri 1:15-4-7-9:35 Sat 11-1:15-4-7-9:35 Sun 1:15-4-7-9:35 Mon 7:25-9:50 Tue 1:15-4-7-9:35 Wed 7:25-9:50 Thu 1:45-7:25-9:50 Fri 1:35 Sat 11-12-2:30 Sun 1:35 Tue 1:35 Thu 1:30
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri 4:20-7:15-9:50 Sat 5:05-7:40-10:15 Sun 4:20-7:15-9:50 Mon 7:15-9:50 Tue 4:20-7:15-9:50 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:50
Trailer Park Boys: Don't Legalize It (13+) Fri-Sun 3:30-5:45-8:05-10:20 Mon 7:35-9:45 Tue 3:30-5:45-8:05-10:20 Wed-Thu 7:35-9:45
Transcendence (G) Fri 2-4:50-7:40-10:30 Sat 11:15-2-4:50-7:40-10:30 Sun 2-4:50-7:40-10:30 Mon 7:15-9:50 Tue 2-4:50-7:40-10:30 Wed 7:15-9:50 Thu 1-7:15-9:50 Fri 2:10-4:45-7:30-10:15 Sat 11:25-2:10-4:45-7:30-10:15 Sun 2:10-4:45-7:30-10:15 Mon 7:30-10 Tue 2:10-4:45-7:30-10:15 Wed 7:30-10 Thu 1:45-7:30-10

Barrhaven Cinemas
131 Riocan Dr.

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 8
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri 7-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:50-7-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:35
Divergent (PG) Fri-Sat 6:50-9:55 Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-9:55 Mon-Wed 4:30-7:35 Thu 4
Heaven Is for Real (PG) Fri 7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:10-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:20
Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG) Sat 11
The Metropolitan Opera: Così fan tutte (STC) Sat 12:55
The Other Woman (STC) No Passes Fri 7:30-10:10 No Passes Sat 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10 No Passes Sun 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:50-7:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Rio 2 (G) Sat 11:30-2 Sun 2
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 4:35-7:10-9:40 Mon-Wed 4:40-7:10 Thu 4:40
Trailer Park Boys: Don't Legalize It (14A) Fri 7:45-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Transcendence (PG) Fri 7:10-10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 5-7:45

SilverCity
2385 City Park Dr.

The Amazing Spider-Man 2: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Thu 7-10:30
Bears (G) Fri 1:35-3:45-5:45-7:55 Sat 11:30-1:35-3:45-5:45-7:55 Sun 1:35-3:45-5:45-7:55 Mon 12:50-2:55-5:05-7:05 Tue-Thu 1:35-3:45-5:45-7:55
Brick Mansions (PG) Fri-Tue 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:45 Wed 3:40-6-8:20-10:45 Thu 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri 1:05-4:15-7:25-10:35 Sat 1:10-4:20-5:55-9:05 Sun-Thu 1:05-4:15-7:25-10:35
Divergent (PG) Fri 12:40-3:55-7:05-10:15 Sat 3:55-7:05-10:15 Sun 12:40-3:55-7:05-10:15 Mon 5:55-9:10 Tue-Thu 12:40-3:55-7:05-10:15
Dom Hemingway (14A) Fri 1:40-4:20-7-9:40 Sat 1:40-4:25-7-9:40 Sun-Wed 1:40-4:20-7-9:40 Thu 1:40-4:20-6:55-9:40
Draft Day (PG) Fri 11:55-2:30-5:10-7:45-10:30 Sat 11:55-7:45-10:30 Sun 11:55-2:30-5:10-7:45-10:30 Mon 5:25-7:55-10:30 Tue 11:55-2:30-5:10-7:45-10:30 Wed 2:30-5:10-7:45-10:30 Thu 2:30-5:10-7:50
God's Not Dead (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:35-7:30-10:25
The Grand Budapest Hotel (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3-5:40-8:05-10:35
Heaven Is for Real (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:05-5:35-8:10-10:40
Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG) Sat 11
The Metropolitan Opera: Così fan tutte (STC) Sat 12:55
National Theatre Live: King Lear (STC) Thu 7
Noah (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-4:10-7:15-10:30
Oculus (14A) Fri 2:25-5-7:35-10:10 Sat 7:35-10:10 Sun 2:35-5:05-7:35-10:20 Mon-Wed 2:25-5-7:35-10:10 Thu 2:25-5-10:25
The Other Woman (STC) No Passes Fri 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 No Passes Sat 1:05-2:30-5:10-8-10:40 No Passes Sun 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 No Passes Mon 2:40-5:20-8-10:40 No Passes Tue 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 No Passes Wed 3:50-6:40-9:35 No Passes Thu 2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
The Princess Bride (STC) Sun 12:45
The Quiet Ones (14A) Fri-Sat 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Sun 12:10-3-5:25-7:50-10:20 Mon 1:10-3:40-6:30-9:45 Tue 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Wed 12:20-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Thu 1:45-4:25-7:10-10:35
Rio 2 (G) Fri 11:50-2:15 Sat 11:05-11:50-2:15-5:30 Sun 11:50-2:15 Mon 2:15 Tue 11:50-2:15 Wed-Thu 2:15
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4:40-7:10-9:45 Mon 4:40-7:10 Tue-Wed 4:40-7:10-9:45 Thu 4:40-9:45
Super Duper Alice Cooper (STC) Mon 9
Trailer Park Boys: Don't Legalize It (14A) Fri-Tue 1-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:45 Wed 12:50-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:45 Thu 1-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:45
Transcendence (PG) Fri-Sun 10 Mon 2:30-9:15 Tue-Wed 10 Thu 7:35-10-10:45
Transcendence: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri 1:50-4:45-7:40-10:30 Sat 11:05-1:50-4:45-7:40-10:30 Sun-Wed 1:50-4:45-7:40-10:30 Thu 1:10-4

Landmark Theatres Orleans 6 Cinemas
3752 Innes Rd

The Amazing Spider-Man 2 3D (PG) Thu 7-10:15
Bears (G) Fri 3:15-7 Sat-Sun 10:50-1:10-3:50-7 Mon 3:15-7 Tue 1-3:15-7 Wed-Thu 3:15-7
Brick Mansions (PG) Fri 3:50-6:40-10 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:10 Mon 3:50-6:40-10 Tue 12:15-3:50-6:40-10 Wed-Thu 3:50-6:40-10
Captain America: The Winter Soldier (PG) Fri 3:15 Sat-Sun 10-2 Mon-Thu 3:15
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri 6:30-9:40 Sat-Sun 10:30-6-9:15 Mon 6:30-9:40 Tue 12-6:30-9:40 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:40 Fri 3:35-7-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:35-7-10:15 Mon 3:35-7-10:15 Tue 12:30-3:35-7-10:15 Wed 3:35-7-10:15
Divergent (PG) Fri-Thu 9:30
Heaven Is for Real (PG) Fri 4-6:50-9:35 Sat-Sun 10:20-1-3:45-6:20-9:20 Mon 4-6:50-9:35 Tue 12:45-4-6:50-9:35 Wed-Thu 4-6:50-9:35
The Other Woman (STC) No Passes Fri 3:45-6:45-9:25 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:05-3:45-6:45-9:25 No Passes Mon 3:45-6:45-9:25 No Passes Tue 1:05-3:45-6:45-9:25 No Passes Wed-Thu 3:45-6:45-9:25
The Quiet Ones (14A) Fri 3:10-6-9 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:10-6-9 Mon 3:10-6-9 Tue 12:40-3:10-6-9 Wed 3:10-6-9 Thu 3:10-3:10-6-6-9-9
Rio 2 (G) Fri 3:30 Sat-Sun 10:40-3:30 Mon-Thu 3:30
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri 6:15-9:10 Sat-Sun 10:10-12:45-6:15-9 Mon 6:15-9:10 Tue 12:50-6:15-9:10 Wed-Thu 6:15-9:10
Trailer Park Boys: Don't Legalize It (14A) Fri 4:10-7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-9:50 Mon 4:10-7:10-9:50 Tue 1:20-4:10-7:10-9:50 Wed-Thu 4:10-7:10-9:50
Transcendence (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 6:20-9:15 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:20-10:15 No Passes Mon 3:20-6:20-9:15 No Passes Tue 12:25-3:20-6:20-9:15 No Passes Wed-Thu 3:20-6:20-9:15

Landmark Cinemas 24 Kanata & IMAX, 801 Kanata Ave.

2 States (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:15-6:20-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:15-6:20-9:25
The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (PG) No Passes Thu 7-8-10:25
The Amazing Spider-Man 2: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Thu 7-10:25
Bears (G) Fri-Sun 11:45-2-4:15-6:40-9 Mon 4:15-6:40-9 Tue 2-4:15-6:40-9 Wed-Thu 4:15-6:40-9
Brick Mansions (PG) Fri-Sun 11:05-1:50-4:25-7-9:45 Mon 4:25-7-9:45 Tue 1:50-4:25-7-9:45 Wed-Thu 4:25-7-9:45
Captain America: The Winter Soldier (PG) Fri-Sun 11:10-2:30-6-9:10 Mon 2:30-5:35 Tue-Thu 2:30-6-9:10
Captain America: The Winter Soldier — An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Wed 4-10:05 Thu 3:30
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 11:40-1:40-3:30-5-7:10-8:20 Mon 3:30-5-7:10-8:20 Tue 1:40-3:30-5-7:10-8:20 Wed 3:30-5-7:10-8:20 Thu 3:30-5-8:20
Divergent (PG) Fri-Thu 6:50-10
Draft Day (PG) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:25-10:10 Mon 4:30-7:25-10:10 Tue 1:40-4:30-7:25-10:10 Wed-Thu 4:30-7:25-10:10
A Fighting Man (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:35-6:30-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:30-9:25
God's Not Dead (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:25-6:35-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:25-6:35-9:40
The Grand Budapest Hotel (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-3:55-6:20-9:05 Mon 3:55-6:20-9:05 Tue 1:15-3:55-6:20-9:05 Wed-Thu 3:55-6:20-9:05
A Haunted House 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:10-7:50-10:05 Mon-Wed 2:50-5:10-7:50-10:05 Thu 2:50-5:10
Heaven Is for Real (PG) Fri-Sun 10:50-1:55-4:45-7:20-9:50 Mon 4:45-7:20-9:50 Tue 1:55-4:45-7:20-9:50 Wed-Thu 4:45-7:20-9:50
The LEGO Movie (G) Fri-Sun 11:15-1:45-4:20 Mon 4:20 Tue 1:45-4:20 Wed-Thu 4:20
Mr. Peabody & Sherman (G) Fri-Sun 10:55-1:35-4:05-6:55 Mon 4:05-6:55 Tue 1:35-4:05-6:55 Wed-Thu 4:05-6:55
Muppets Most Wanted (G) Fri-Sun 10:35-1:20-4:10-6:50 Mon 4:10-6:50 Tue 1:20-4:10-6:50 Wed-Thu 4:10-6:50
Noah (14A) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:15-6:25-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:15-6:25-9:35
Non-Stop (PG) Fri-Thu 9:20
Oculus (14A) Fri-Thu 9:30
The Other Woman (STC) No Passes Fri-Sun 10:40-12:35-1:25-3:40-4:30-6:45-7:35-9:30-10:15 No Passes Mon 3:40-4:30-6:45-7:35-9:30-10:15 No Passes Tue 1:25-3:40-4:30-6:45-7:35-9:30-10:15 No Passes Wed-Thu 3:40-4:30-6:45-7:35-9:30-10:15
The Quiet Ones (14A) Fri-Sun 11:20-2-4:50-7:45-10:10 Mon 4:50-7:45-10:10 Tue 2-4:50-7:45-10:10 Wed-Thu 4:50-7:45-10:10
Rio 2 (G) Fri-Sun 10:30-1:30-3:35-4:35-7:30-9:55 Mon 3:35-4:35-7:30-9:55 Tue 1:30-3:35-4:35-7:30-9:55 Wed-Thu 3:35-4:35-7:30-9:55
Rio 2 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11-12:40-2:40-5:30-6:30-8-9:25 Mon-Thu 2:40-5:30-6:30-8-9:25
Super Duper Alice Cooper (STC) No Passes Mon 9
Trailer Park Boys: Don't Legalize It (14A) Fri-Sun 11:25-2:10-4:40-7:15-9:55 Mon 4:40-7:15-9:55 Tue 2:10-4:40-7:15-9:55 Wed-Thu 4:40-7:15-9:55
Transcendence (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:55-3:20-6:30-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:20-6:30-9:40
Transcendence: The IMAX Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-7:10 No Passes Mon 7:10 No Passes Tue 1-7:10 No Passes Wed 7:10

Daily Show's Bugle boy boogies to HBO

John Oliver. Stint as Daily Show guest host provided springboard to comedian's new topical comedy series

When the time comes for a young bird to leave the nest, he's often more than ready to go and doesn't care too much what Papa Bird thinks.

The analogy doesn't apply to John Oliver, the former Daily Show featured player who debuts his new HBO topical series Sunday at 11 p.m. EDT. He's extremely loyal to Jon Stewart, recognizes Stewart's role in giving him the opportunity to get ahead, and sought the Comedy Central host's blessing to move to HBO.

"I have a pretty intense debt to him," said Oliver, whose show is called Last Week Tonight. "I wouldn't be doing this if it wasn't for him."

Oliver, a native of Britain who was always interested in topical comedy, admired Stewart's show from afar and in 2006 applied for and earned a job on the Daily Show. His path to HBO began last year, when Stewart called and said he was taking the summer off to produce a movie. Would Oliver mind filling in as guest host for a couple of months?

He hung up and his legs went weak. Oliver's wife didn't help much when he recounted the conversation and she said, "Oh, that's risky."

She was right. But her husband nailed it, keeping a formidable machine running smoothly and establishing a comic personality of his own: More bemused and less neurotic or angry than Stewart.

Oliver said he really didn't have a sense of how well it was going until Charlie Rose was a guest toward the end of his tenure. The CBS newsman said the audience had loved him. Had he thought about his next step?

"That was the first time I'd heard that," Oliver said. "He looked at me like I was a complete moron. My only barometer for going well was Jon not being mad at me when he came back."

His phone offered more clues. Offers for work started coming in. It was Oliver's moment of opportunity, and both he and Stewart recognized it. HBO offered prestige and creative freedom to build a show as he saw fit, so Oliver signed on.

Slow to recognize an opportunity

"He looked at me like I was a complete moron. My only barometer for going well was Jon not being mad at me when he came back."

John Oliver describes his reaction when, towards the end of his tenure filling in for Jon Stewart, CBS newsman Charlie Rose asked Oliver if he'd thought about his next step.

John Oliver will host Last Week Tonight with John Oliver Sundays at 11 p.m. EDT on HBO. HBO

It's hard to describe something that hasn't been on the air yet, but Last Week Tonight seems to be an apt title. Oliver will give a comedic take on stories in the news. It sounds similar to the Daily Show, but he realizes his challenge will be to take on topics that Stewart and Colbert haven't already done, along with not making the telecast seem dated by the time it goes on the air.

Another challenge — again, one that may become moot once Last Week Tonight is up and operating — is for Oliver not to let his respect for Stewart and the Daily Show lead him into making a program that feels like a pale imitation.

"John Oliver does bring something kind of different," said Jonathan Gray, a media and cultural studies professor at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. "The Daily Show is primarily about American politics and so much about John Oliver's shtick reminds you that he's not an American. It's not the insider humour of Stewart. It's more of an outsider's observations. Sometimes they may look similar, but I think it can allow for a different kind of comic sensibility."

Oliver, 37, is clearly aware of how dangerous it can be for an outsider to make jokes about Americans. He defuses any worries with a self-deprecatory attitude.

"I clearly love it here," he said, "because I live here out of choice. You can't really talk about anything that America has done without acknowledging that Britain had already done it much worse hundreds of years ago."

Oliver probably would have been a good choice to fill Comedy Central's 11:30 p.m. hour on weekdays with Colbert set to leave next year. The timing was lousy; Oliver was already working on Last Week Tonight when Letterman announced his retirement. It may turn out to be a positive, since the ending of The Colbert Report will mean one less competitor in the topical field.

That's for the future. Oliver's more immediate challenge is to get his old Daily Show fans to check out Last Week Tonight.

"If you enjoyed me last summer and you don't watch, then I'm in serious trouble," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stewart as kingmaker

Jon Stewart's role as a comedy kingmaker has never been more clear than this month, with Oliver starting the new show and another ex-Daily Show correspondent, Stephen Colbert, earning the coveted honour of succeeding David Letterman when the Late Show host retires next year.

Asher Roth graduates with new album RetroHash

After five years, Asher Roth has released his second full-length album, RetroHash. The rapper, best known for the hit single I Love College, has a new address, a new mindset and, hopefully, some new hit songs.

Roth's first album, Asleep in the Bread Aisle, was released in 2009 under the Island Def Jam record label. This second album, however, is largely self-released.

"It was just a matter of finding the right home," Roth says. "No worrying about the marketplace or any trying to get into the head of the consumer that the business tries to do. Just really concentrating on making dope music that I like and that my friends like, and that's it."

After being mostly absent from the rap scene for five years, Roth says he is very excited to complete his long transition and finally release a new album. He has released four mixtapes and stresses that there was never a lull in his creativity.

"I don't think that five years stepped away hurt," Roth says. "More so, if anything, I think it helped me. It allowed me to kind of step away and grow without feeling those pressures."

Roth says that RetroHash, produced by the Blended Babies, is evidence of his maturation. Living in L.A. helped him grow up, and gave his album a fresh feeling of renewal.

The album was made in a very laid-back manner.

"It was the way it was supposed to be, man," Roth says. "No sitting around, A&Rs checking me saying, 'You need to do this, you need to do that.' It was literally hanging out in the living room, recording vocals in the living room."

RetroHash offers the chance for Roth to step away from I Love College and allow fans to see more of him. While he can't blame fans who only know that hit, he says he hopes they take a closer look.

"They might not want you to grow up sometimes," Roth says. "But I really do think I have something to offer, especially in the hip-hop world. That's why I'm excited for this record; I feel like it's something that will allow people to look at me in a different light."

The lead single, Tangerine Girl, bears little resemblance to I Love College. Roth speaks excitedly of its creation.

New songs, new feel

"I feel like it's something that will allow people to look at me in a different light."

Asher Roth, on his new album RetroHash

"You can feel it's a very natural record, nothing's very forced," Roth says. "I just love to create, and I feel like with that record, you feel like it was fun to make."

Also different is the way Roth plans to celebrate the release of this album. His band will play RetroHash live, in its entirety, at performances in Philadelphia, Boston and New York. He says the idea came to him after taking in several listening sessions.

It's been five years since Asher Roth released a full-length LP, but he says he has no regrets about taking his time. BROCK FETCH

"From that experience I was like, 'You know what would be really dope is if we played the album live for the first time,'" Roth says. "Obviously, it will be a different experience than hearing recorded music. But, you know, I love live music."

MAX PRINZ/METRO WORLD NEWS

Kevin Dunn. 'It's like all bets are off' on VEEP

Veteran character actor Kevin Dunn, who's known for having a gentle, genial demeanour, is relishing being able to swear all the time on the expletive-rich political comedy series Veep.

"It's pretty liberating," the 57-year-old said with a laugh in a telephone interview.

"You spend most of your time, depending on the project, toeing a certain line — but with Veep it's like all bets are off."

The Chicago native plays Ben Caffrey, chief of staff to the U.S. president, on the Emmy-nominated HBO series that's into its third season and was recently renewed for a fourth. It airs Sundays at 10:30 p.m. EST on HBO Canada.

Ben first appeared on the show last season and became a blunt, curmudgeonly confidante to Vice-President Selina Meyer, played by Julia Louis-Dreyfus.

His character has emerged as a fan favourite this season as he tries to ingratiate himself with Selina, who is building a campaign after the president announced he doesn't plan to run for re-election in two years.

While Selina and the rest of her comical staff race around in a foul-mouthed frenzy of crisis management and scheming, Ben sits back and responds to how everyone else is reacting.

But Ben does have a bipolar side and self-medicates with pills and a nine-cup Thermos filled with who knows what.

And as Dunn puts it, despite Ben's collected demeanour, sometimes "you think he's just going to go off on a bender somewhere and you won't be able to find him."

"It's like everyone on the show — you don't know what their tipping point is, or when they might lose all control of their faculties. They all have this kind of Achilles thing where you get that uneasy feeling that something is going to go wrong."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Actor Kevin Dunn stars in Veep. CONTRIBUTED

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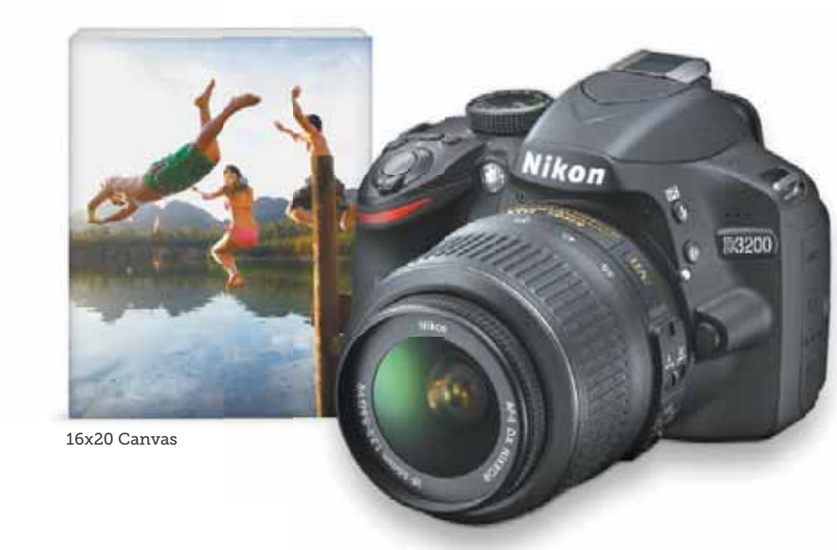

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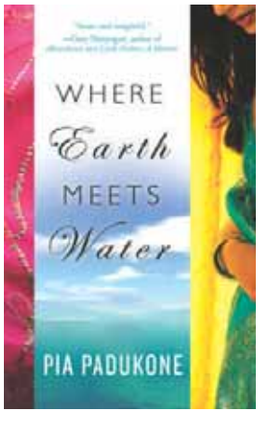


Unforeseen forces. Novelist explores destiny and near-death escapes

Author Pia Padukone has personal experiences with narrowly escaping death.

"The summer before I was a junior in college, I worked as a temp in Tower One of the World Trade Center. My last day was Friday and I was supposed to fly to London to study abroad on Wednesday. Tuesday, 9/11 happened," she tells us.

And that's not all. Padukone was also in India when a tsunami struck the coast in 2004 (luckily she was about two hundred miles north) and she was also present at the 2013 Boston Marathon cheering on her husband. "It definitely got me thinking about what it means to have fate look after you," she says.

Such is the basis for her novel, Where Earth Meets Water (out next month). The main character, Karom, narrowly escapes dying in both 9/11 and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and is struggling with survivor's guilt. His girlfriend prompts him to travel to India, hoping he will find peace there, which leads him on an unexpected journey.

For Padukone, the very act of writing Where Earth Meets Water took her on an unexpected journey as well. Instead of outlining it beforehand, she just sat down each morning and wrote, not knowing what would happen to her characters.

Padukone says one of the underlying messages of the book is finding peace where you least expect it.

"I personally love intertwined stories. I love the randomness of how people meet up and how their storylines become connected," she says. "Sometimes you can find peace in someone or something you never expected to." EMILY LAURENCE/ METRO WORLD NEWS

Long and short of it

"The book started as short story, which is actually the first chapter of the book. After I finished the short story, I thought to myself, there's a lot going on here and I'm not done. I want to see where this goes. So I just wrote it." Pia Padukone

3 songs for the weekend

For your listening pleasure, some Canadian rockers and a mellow electronic melody

Sound Check

ALAN CROSS

See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to listen to Alan's recommended songs this week.

JPNSGRLS

Smalls/ JPNSGRLS

First, their name is pronounced Japanese Girls. Second, they're not from Japan; they're from Vancouver. And finally, there's not a single female among the four members. Are we clear?

Perfectly Sane/ The Mohrs

A heavy-hitting rock band with members hailing from Winnipeg, managed and mentored by Hawksley Workman. If you like grunge and '80s rock, this will work fine.

Talk Is Cheap/ Chet Faker

Nicholas James Murphy — a Chet Baker fan who has self-esteem issues — has already won awards as an electronica artist at home in Australia. Let's see what he can do on this side of the Pacific.

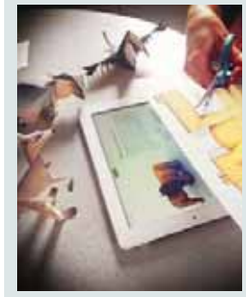
Mind the App

Colourful crafts for kids

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

Foldify Zoo
iPad
$1.99

An educational activity to share with your kids, this papercraft app lets you colour and decorate templates before printing them off and folding them into 3-D animals to share online.



Video game review

Name. Trials Fusion

For. PC/PS4/Xbox One/Xbox 360

Rated. Everyone 10+

The challenge is to keep your motocross bike balanced as it hurtles through a series of ludicrous obstacle courses that may start off with cries of exhilaration but soon transition into comical wails of defeat as you crumble into a neck-breaking demise. Dying repeatedly may sound boring, but simple controls and an inventive use of fountains, aerial tracks, and teeter-totter devices keep it interesting. Casual users, unfortunately, are too quickly left behind when air grabs are added as the difficulty skyrockets, becoming a diversion for hardcore gamers only.

KRIS ABEL

Hopefully it's no Joey. Meg Ryan signs on to narrate How I Met Your Dad

Meg Ryan has agreed to be the narrator of How I Met Your Dad, the spinoff of CBS's hit show How I Met Your Mother, deadline.com reports.

The actress will provide the off-screen narration in one of the most anticipated pilots of the coming season. This means that the Hollywood actress will voice an older version of Sally, the central character of the spinoff, played by Greta Gerwig.

Like Bob Saget, who provided the voice of the future version of Ted in the original series, Ryan will not appear on screen.

Though still best known for her film roles (Sleepless in Seattle, You've Got Mail), Meg Ryan has been absent from the silver screen since the release of Serious Moonlight in 2009.

She has had only a handful of TV appearances in recent years, turning up on Curb Your Enthusiasm and Web Therapy.

2014 is expected to mark Ryan's big comeback, as she is headlining a series in development at NBC for this fall.

The actress will play a cheerful and devoted single mother who decides to return to the New York publishing house where she used to work. Once a successful editor, she now reports to the neurotic 30-year-old who used to be her intern.

AFP

Meg Ryan will provide the off-screen narration in How I Met Your Dad.
VALERY HACHE/AFP PHOTO

Count down

To find out whether How I Met Your Dad will join the CBS line-up for the 2014-2015 season, fans will have to wait until the network's press conference on May 14.

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Canadian TV shows hit their stride

New generation of showrunners. Series like Flashpoint, Bitten and Orphan Black point the way for new TV masterminds

The cast of Bitten, including Laura Vandervoort as female werewolf Elena Michaels. Showrunner Daegan Fryklind participated in the first year of the Canadian Film Centre's Showrunner Bootcamp. MATT BARNES/SYFY

One summer morning, Mark Ellis and Stephanie Morgenstern woke up abruptly to their clock radio blaring news about a hostage taking at Toronto's Union Station.

They went downstairs to watch the drama unfold on television. After a tense standoff, and much to the horror of bystanders, the assailant was shot by an emergency task force officer.

"It was really a shock seeing this in real time. And one question that went through our minds was, what was it like for the police officer who took that shot? What's the rest of his day going to be like?" Ellis says in an interview.

That moment translated into one of Canada's most successful TV exports, Flashpoint. The show ran for five seasons on CTV and was licensed in more than 100 territories globally.

It also kick-started a newfound confidence from Canadian TV producers that their stories could not only have broad appeal but also make a pile of money. Finally Canada could offer the kind of slick, pyrotechnic police procedural that was on par or better than its Hollywood counterparts. Perhaps more importantly, Ellis and Morgenstern helped to birth a new generation of screenwriters who wanted to produce their own stories, also known as showrunners.

The new golden age of television is due in large part to the increasing prominence of the writer as the creative executive on television shows; the person ultimately responsible for that singular, passionate vision.

Already 2014 has been shaping up to be something of a breakout year for Canadian TV.

The lineup includes Vancouverite Daegan Fryklind's Bitten, the Toronto-shot werewolf thriller starring Laura Vandervoort (Smallville's Supergirl) on Space channel. It is joined by Greg Spottiswood's well-received drama Remedy on Global. And Season 2 of Graeme Manson's Toronto-produced science fiction thriller Orphan Black premiered last weekend after winning 10 Canadian Screen Awards for the first season.

Meanwhile, Ellis and Morgenstern's next moves are being watched closely in the industry as the married couple have several irons in the fire, working on two series simultaneously for competitors CBC and CTV. One of them will be a detective show remake of a Belgian TV crime thriller.

"I think you're seeing television really explode because, finally, the storytellers have control over the story; it's become a writer's medium," says Maureen Parker, executive director of the Writers Guild of Canada, which gave the 2013 Showrunner of the Year award to Ellis and Morgenstern.

Perhaps too slowly for some, Canada is emerging into its own star culture for writers. Showrunners such as Tassie Cameron of the cop drama Rookie Blue and Manson of Orphan Black, while not household names, have become more widely recognized.

In the movie industry, the director is god. In television, it's the showrunner.

"Writers tell stories. And if you look at some of the most successful series, they are guided by writers who are truly visionary, who have this extraordinary skill," says Rob Labelle, the executive producer of the Canadian-produced cop drama Motive.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in Hollywood. Considering these are the typically unassuming folk who write TV shows, the cult of the runner in Los Angeles is remarkable. Familiar names such as J.J. Abrams, the creator of Lost, Shonda Rhimes of Grey's Anatomy, Vince Gilligan of Breaking Bad or Joss Whedon of Buffy the Vampire Slayer will elicit massive lineups at any fan expo.

That's not quite the case in Canada, where smaller markets, a less risk-taking attitude, and structural and economic realities have contributed to a less robust star system.

In the U.S., TV shows are produced by broadcasters such as ABC or CBS, and studios such as Universal or Warner Brothers. Cable companies such as HBO and Showtime and online channels such as Netflix have also upped the ante with critically acclaimed productions.

Producers south of the border have also traditionally been more willing to roll the dice, giving the writer more creative leeway.

In Canada, TV shows are usually shepherded by small and medium-sized independent producers and sold to broadcast networks. That means smaller budgets, typically, for a smaller market. And broadcasters have traditionally been less experimental, holding tighter control over the writers' room.

The need to develop talent has not gone unnoticed by the industry. For the last two years the Canadian Film Centre has sent promising writers to what it calls the Showrunner Bootcamp. In the inaugural year, Bitten's Fryklind participated, which helped her to develop her own show for the Space channel. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Orphan Black

"I'm happy we can do this at home, not shooting Orphan Black in Los Angeles. It allows us to put the hype behind us and concentrate on making a great show with an incredible infrastructure and crew behind us. But at the end of the day as a writer, I can tell you there's really no better time to be in television."

Graeme Manson, co-creator and showrunner for sci-fi thriller Orphan Black

Really

Chalke and Blair to team up for Amazon Studios

Sarah Chalke and Selma Blair will co-star in Really, a new comedy pilot in development at Amazon Studios, the online retailer's content development division. The series will follow a group of 30-something friends living in Chicago.

At the centre of Really will be Lori, a lawyer played by Chalke (Scrubs, How I Met Your Mother) and her husband Jed, a neurologist played by Jay Chandrasekhar. Their friends include three other couples: Joanna and Fred, Margaret and Mike and Hayes and Alison. When Jed finds out that Mike and Joanna are having an affair, the dynamics within the group are thrown off balance.

Sarah Chalke JEWEL SAMAD/AFP PHOTO

Selma Blair, who has been honing her comedy skills recently in the series Anger Management, will appear in the role of Joanna, who is cheating on her husband with Mike, played by Travis Schuldt (Scrubs). Luka Jones (Her), Lindsay Sloane (Weeds), Hayes Macarthur (Go On) and Collette Wolfe (Cougar Town) will round out the cast. AFP

Eight-hour miniseries

Robert Knepper boards History's Texas Rising

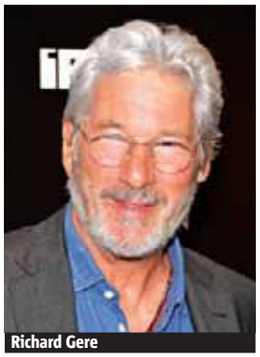
Robert Knepper VALERY HACHE/AFP PHOTO

Robert Knepper, an actor known for his roles on Prison Break and Heroes, will join Bill Paxton, Ray Liotta and Olivier Martinez on the set of Texas Rising, an eight-hour miniseries on the creation of the Texas Rangers in the 19th century.

Knepper will play Empresario Buckley, the sole representative of the law in a Texas town. AFP

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES


Richard Gere

Gere dates Padma Lakshmi

While Richard Gere is still in the process of divorcing Carey Lowell, his wife of 11 years, the Pretty Woman star has reportedly started dating Top Chef host Padma Lakshmi, according to Star magazine. "They're just getting to know each other," a source says, adding that the romance "started very recently." Gere and Lakshmi started spending time together when he headed to New York to work on his current film.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Jodie Foster

Jodie Foster marries girlfriend

Jodie Foster is a married woman. The 51-year-old Oscar winner wed girlfriend Alexandra Hedison over the weekend, Foster's publicist confirmed, but offered no other details.

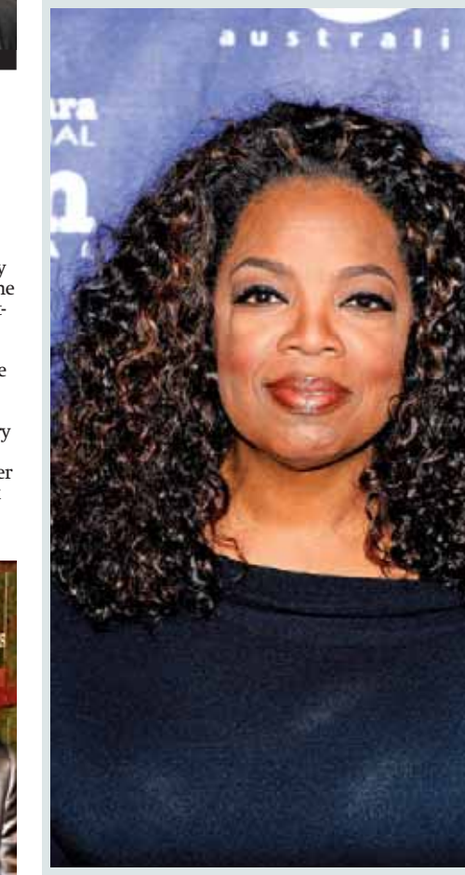
It's the first marriage for Foster, who came out publicly in a rambling, heartfelt speech at the 2013 Golden Globe Awards, where she accepted lifetime achievement honours.

E! says Foster and Hedison, a 44-year-old photographer based in Los Angeles, have been dating since last summer.

Hedison, who was previously linked to Ellen DeGeneres, is also an actress with TV credits including Nash Bridges and The L Word.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Word



Oprah's vengeful ex-stepmother dishes on star

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Oprah's ex-stepmother, Barbara Winfrey, wants revenge. After she divorced Oprah's father Vernon, Oprah pushed Barbara out of the house where she lived with Vernon and which Oprah owned. Now Barbara is retaliating by dishing all in a Daily Mail interview. Here are the best bits:

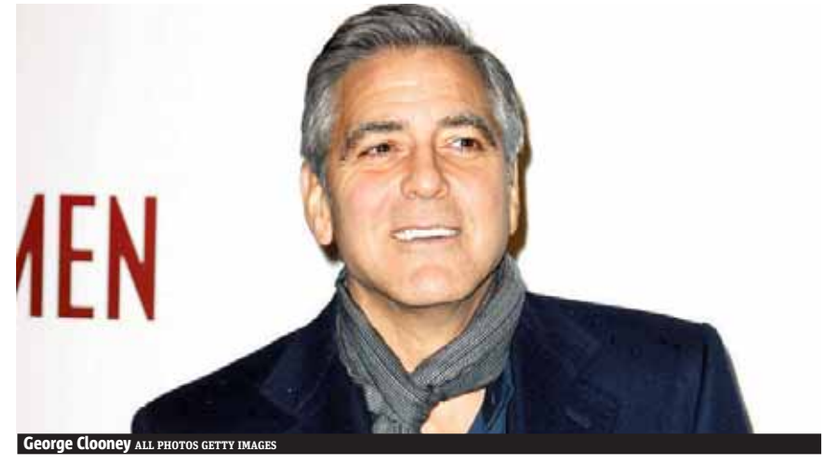
1. She claims she has never seen Oprah and her long-term boyfriend, Stedman Graham, kiss, hold hands or seem romantic.

2. "If it's not more than friendship, they're giving every appearance that it is," she said about the close friendship of Oprah and Gayle King.

3. Oprah is obsessed with skin colour. "It's a real thing for her. It's one of the things she liked about Stedman. He has what we call 'high yellow' skin and soft hair … she liked that."

4. Oprah forces everyone to sign a confidentiality agreement. "Once you're in Oprah's world, she owns you," she noted.

5. There are rumours that Vernon is not Winfrey's biological father. Barbara claims he wanted to do the DNA test but Oprah refused. "She knows it would prove he IS her father. She can't quite believe that such a silly man could make such a magnificent creature," she said.


George Clooney ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Is Clooney Wynning this feud? Star storms out of dinner with hotel developer

George Clooney didn't have the best time dining with hotel and casino developer Steve Wynn during a visit to Las Vegas recently. The actor reportedly stormed out of a dinner with Wynn and a few associates after an argument over the Affordable Care Act, though each party has their own version of events.

"When he's drinking, he considers himself a close, personal buddy of the president," Wynn tells the Las Vegas Review-Journal. "He got up and said, 'I don't have to listen to this f—ing stuff.' The only person who got excited at the table was George, and he ran off to another bar. Clooney's fun to be with when he's sober. If you have a chance to drink with him, you want to get there early, and don't stay late." Clooney, for his part, sent a statement via his publicist: "I said the president was my longtime friend, and then he said, 'Your friend is an a—hole,'" Clooney says."At that point I told Steve that he was an a—hole and I wasn't going to sit at his table while he was being such a jackass. And I walked out. There were obviously quite a few more adjectives and adverbs used by both of us." METRO WORLD NEWS

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Liquid Assets

Cheers to new juice

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca
Facebook: therealwineguy

With so many unique grape varieties growing around the world, you could drink a wine made from a different one every day for the rest of your life and never come close to saying you tasted them all.

I recently tried a Turkish wine made from Öküzgözü: a piece of fruit native to Turkey's Elazığ province. I hadn't had it before and love that after decades of walking the wine beat, I'm still finding new-to-me juice.

Of course you don't have to go that far afield to try something other than merlot and chardonnay. There are plenty of mainstream countries producing wines from lesser known grapes.

Puglia, the heel of Italy's boot, has almost exclusive rights to Negroamaro — a dark, brooding berry that delivers well above its typically inexpensive price point.

The 2012 Mezzomondo Negroamaro IGT ($8.95 - $11.99) is majorly aromatic with dark berry fruit flavours and the grape's classic light bitter finish, which makes it a perfect partner for meaty tomato sauces and weekend barbecues.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

This meal is as sweet as pie — minus the sugar. Annabel Langbein, who brings good food into today's fast-paced world, shows us a savoury recipe that's perfect for breakfast, lunch or dinner from her cookbook The Free Range Cook

Bacon and Egg Pie: Bake a different type of pastry tonight

THE FREE RANGE COOK
Annabel Langbein
gustotv.com

1. Preheat oven to 200 C. Place a flat baking tray in the oven to heat — the pie will sit on this and the heat will help it to crisp.

2. Cut a piece of baking paper to fit a 40 x 30 cm baking dish or roasting pan. It should cover the base and reach about 3-4 cm up the sides. Remove the baking paper from the baking dish or roasting pan and lay it flat on your bench. Dust it with a little flour and lay 2 pastry sheets on top. Join the pastry sheets by pressing them together firmly with a small overlap. Roll out the pastry to cover the paper. Lift the paper with the pastry and lay it into the baking dish or roasting pan (it will reach 3-4 cm up the sides).

3. Sprinkle the bacon over the pastry. Top with the sliced potato and sprinkle with the herbs. Break 8 whole eggs over the top.

4. In a mixing bowl, lightly whisk the remaining 6 eggs with the milk, salt and pepper. Pour this evenly over the whole eggs.

5. Roll out the remaining sheet of pastry very thinly and cut it into narrow strips. Arrange the strips in a lattice pattern on top of the pie, trimming off any excess.

6. Place the prepared pie on top of the heated baking tray and bake for 12-15 minutes until the pastry is starting to puff and turn golden. Reduce the heat to 180 C and bake until the pastry is golden and cooked through on the base — about a further 35-40 minutes.

7. Serve warm or at room temperature with a salad and pickles or chutney. It will keep in a covered container in the fridge for 2-3 days.

WATCH THE ANNABEL LANGBEIN FREE RANGE COOK MONDAY TO THURSDAY AT 5:30 P.M. EST, STARTING APRIL 28 ON GUSTO TV, CANADA'S NEW FOOD & LIFESTYLE CHANNEL. VISIT GUSTOTV.COM FOR FULL PROGRAM LINE-UP AND MORE GREAT RECIPE IDEAS.

Ingredients

- 3 sheets (450 g) ready-rolled savoury shortcrust pastry
- 250 g streaky bacon, cut into 2 cm pieces
- 2 medium potatoes, peeled, cooked and thinly sliced
- 3 tbsp soft herbs such as parsley, basil, chives or spring onion tops, chopped
- 14 eggs
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 tsp salt
- ground black pepper

This recipe serves six to eight people. ANNABEL LANGBEIN

A perfectly Roasted Pepper Pesto

This recipe makes two cups. ANNABEL LANGBEIN

1. Rinse the peppers and pat dry. Place them on a baking tray and roast at 240 C for about 15-20 minutes until the skin is blistered and blackened. Remove from the oven and cover with a tea towel or put in a plastic bag to sweat. This will make it much easier to remove the skins later. Set aside to cool for about 20 minutes.

2. While the peppers cool, heat the oil in a small pan and sizzle the garlic and paprika for a few seconds. This helps bring out their flavour. Place this mixture in a food processor or blender.

3. Remove the skins and seeds from the peppers, saving the juices if you can. Place the flesh and any reserved juices in the food processor or blender with the garlic and paprika mixture. Add the almonds and coriander. Season with salt and pepper and purée until smooth. Pesto will keep in a covered container in the fridge for a week.

ANNABEL LANGBEIN, GUSTOTV.COM

Ingredients

- 6 red peppers
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 tsp paprika (plain)
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1/4 cup almonds, roasted
- 1/4 cup fresh coriander, chopped
- salt and ground black pepper

ENTERTAINMENT READY TO BLOOM

What's on this spring? The Canadian Tire Centre welcomes diva emeritus Cher's D2K (Dressed to Kill) tour with special guest Cyndi Lauper April 26, and the classic rock sister act Heart, along with Jason Bonham, on June 18.

Upcoming concerts at the National Arts Centre include Dave Gunning with Allie Bennett (April 26), Royal Wood with special guest Peter Katz (May 10), George Thorogood and the Destroyers (May 16), Joe Bonamassa (May 22), Ginette Reno (May 24-25), and Alan Doyle (June 4).

The NAC also gives new life to classic children's stories with Presentation House Theatre's production of Maurice Sendak's Where The Wild Things Are (May 9-10), Suzanne Lebeau's Gretel et Hansel (May 24-25) and the NAC Orchestra performance of Roald Dahl's Little Red Riding Hood (May 31).

Performers from Ottawa's legal community wrap up the 15th annual Lawyers Play Fundraiser with their production of A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Great Canadian Theatre Company April 26. Stay tuned for the GCTC's production of George Walker's dark comedy, The Burden of Self-Awareness (June 3-22).

Centrepointe Theatre gets musical with Andrew Lloyd Webber's Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat by Suzart Productions (May 21-25) and the Orpheus Musical Society's production of 9 to 5: The Musical (May 30 to June 8).

In June, Centrepointe audiences get a double dose of improvisational comedy, with Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood on June 10, followed by Jim Belushi and the Board of Comedy on June 18. In other laughs, Ottawa-born comedy veteran Mike MacDonald returns for hometown stand-up shows June 19-21 at Yuk Yuk's (292 Elgin St.).

The National Gallery of Canada presents Gustav Dore (1832-1883): Master of Imagination, an exhibition of the French artist's prints, drawings, paintings and sculpture (June 13 to Sept. 14); and The Great War: The Persuasive Power of Photography (June 27 to Nov. 14).

CONTRIBUTED

TASTE NEW MUSICAL FLAVOURS

OTTAWA JAZZ FEST BEGINS JUNE 20

The TD Ottawa Jazz Festival adds new and thrilling musical flavours this year, including a Bollywood-themed opening night with Indian superstar Richa Sharma and an evening of Celtic sounds featuring Natalie MacMaster with special guest Donnell Leahy.

Aretha Franklin, forced by illness to cancel her much-anticipated show last year, is back on the bill, performing with a band of local musicians including Jazzfest programming manager Petr Cancura on saxophone.

"It was truly unfortunate to have to cancel a performance we knew so many people were looking forward to," says festival executive producer Catherine O'Grady. "Celebrity does not make you immune to illness though, and we're so pleased to give our audience the satisfaction of seeing Aretha this year.

"There are also plenty of exciting twists and surprises. The Bad Plus, a New York City jazz trio, performs their hip arrangement of Stravinsky's Rite of Spring and Béla Fleck returns to play the festival, this time with Brooklyn Rider, a string quartet. We have Steve Martin and The Steep Canyon Rangers featuring Edie Brickell and Daniel Lanois. There's so much to see."

The TD Ottawa Jazz Festival runs June 20 to July 1. For more information, visit ottawajazzfestival.com.

CONTRIBUTED

PUSHING MUSICAL BOUNDARIES

The Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival's program keeps pushing musical boundaries, but it opens on a fine traditional note July 24 as the Brentano String Quartet fills the space of Dominion Chalmers United Church with strains of Mozart, Bartók and Elgar.

"We've broadened the range of music that we feel legitimately belongs in our idea of chamber music to include some jazz and interesting multimedia projects," says Roman Borys, Chamberfest's artistic director. "But what really lies at the core, and I think if there was one type of ensemble that people most often identify as representing chamber music, it is the string quartet."

The performance will set off an eclectic 20th anniversary edition of the festival — 120 events featuring some 300 artists, with highlights including a recital by renowned soprano Sondra Radvanovsky.

"She is a real lightning bolt of energy and we're very lucky actually to see her," Borys says. "I've been trying patiently to get her, waiting for the right moment, for the right gap to occur in her schedule. She's onstage at the Met a few times a year, she sings at La Scala in Italy. On the major stages, she's one of the opera world's most exciting Verdian sopranos."

Also adding variety is New York-based clarinettist Don Byron.

"He has a very wide range in his artistic palate," Borys says. "He's an incredible jazz clarinettist, he also plays saxophone and other instruments … He'll be doing a concert with (soul singer) Divine Brown and his quintet. It's a whole sort of gospel program."

Sondra Radvanovsky

NIGEL DICKSON PHOTO

Byron has also written a new composition that he will perform with Borys' own Gryphon Trio. "He's telling me that it's sounding a bit like Brahms."

Chamberfest Ottawa 2014 runs from July 24 to Aug. 7. For tickets, the full program listing and other information, visit chamberfest.com.

A 'MESMERIZING' EXPERIENCE

"There's a 'wow' factor there," says Chamberfest artistic director Roman Borys about experiencing the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival for the first time.

"Because there are only three, four, five people on stage, it's just mesmerizing. There's so much to watch and pay attention to. There's so much that you can see in the interactions between the musicians. I think that that's one of the most appealing things for people that come to hear chamber music for the first time.

"They can really see how the musicians work together, and it's exhilarating. It allows for a complete escape for the audience. It's very easy to pay attention, to be completely enraptured by the chamber music experience because you feel that these four, five, six people are really doing this for you. It's very personal, despite the fact that you might be in Dominion Chalmers Church with 800 other people. I think that's one of the most powerful aspects of chamber music."

YOUNGER ARTISTS BRINGING FRESH VIBE TO CHAMBERFEST

As the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival marks its 20th anniversary, artistic director Roman Borys doesn't see it as a coincidence that his festival and Bluesfest will both mark two decades this summer.

"I think 20 years ago a lot of people had a lot of the same good idea and just recognized that Ottawa could sustain and have an appetite for live music during the summer, and that's proven to be absolutely true."

How are they celebrating the milestone?

"One thing we're doing, we're looking forward and presenting a lot of younger, emerging artists, young professionals who'll be coming to the festival for the first time," he says.

The opening days of the festival skew towards younger artists, including the fresh-faced chamber orchestra A Far Cry.

"They capture the imagination of young audiences their own age and I think absolutely delight audiences of all ages because they are an excellent ensemble," Borys says.

"The great opportunity that musicians have at chamber festivals is to meet new friends and new colleagues, new people you might play with in the future and have ongoing collaborations with," he adds. "That's exciting. There's a freshness that the younger generation brings."

The festival also looks back with a J.S. Bach summit, a piano recital marking the centenary of the First World War, and a performance by soprano comedienne Mary Lou Fallis for William Shakespeare's 450th birthday.

A special anniversary concert, Chamberfest @20, features, among others, James Campbell, the principal winds of the NAC Orchestra, Lemon Bucket Orkestra and cellist Borys' own Gryphon Trio.

Lemon Bucket Orkestra

DOM PROULX PHOTO

"The Gryphon Trio started its career in many ways at this festival," he says. "We've been coming here for the lion's share of the 20 years that there's been a festival here, and we feel a very special connection to the community."

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FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

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A Far Cry

Dvorák Three Slavonic Dances
Mendelssohn Concerto for piano, violin, and string orchestra in D minor
Britten Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge

FRIDAY 01 AUGUST 7:00 PM

An Evening with Janina Fialkowska

Grieg Lyric Pieces
Schubert Piano Sonata in E flat major, D. 568
Chopin Polonaise-fantaisie

TUESDAY 05 AUGUST 7:00 PM

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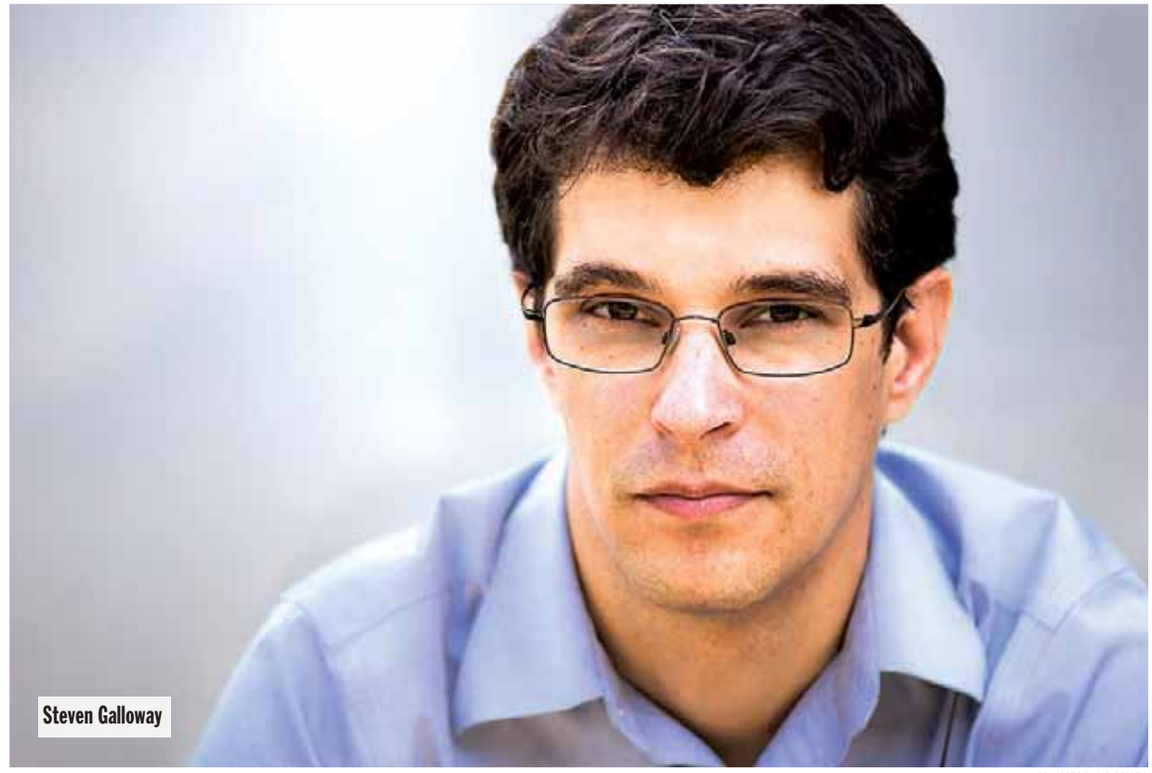
BIG IDEAS

WRITERS FESTIVAL OFFERS GREAT MIX


Steven Galloway

FRANCES RAUD PHOTO

What draws me back to the Ottawa International Writers Festival is the variety of writers and subjects. This season has a great mix of fiction, poetry, performance and politics. As a young writer and poet, I am looking forward to hearing from all of the writers at this festival, but there are few events that really stick out. The festival began Thursday and runs through to Tuesday.

FRIDAY

My top pick is tonight's music and storytelling performance of Gender Failure from Canadian trans-artists Ivan Coyote and Rae Spoon. Spoon and Coyote explore the struggles and failures of naming gender and living as a trans-person in today's society. This one-of-a-kind performance combines multimedia video performance with haunting, poppy music, and honest, sometimes funny, stories.

SATURDAY

Tonight has four writers I am really excited about. First off is a great panel of historical fiction. Us Conductors is Sean Michaels about the life of Leon Termen, inventor of the theremin. It follows Termen from New York in the 1930s, to his forced return to Russia and on through his work for the government during the Cold War. Eva Stachniak's Empress of the Night immerses the reader in the life of Catherine the Great and explores the limitations of being a female ruler in the 18th century. Steven Galloway's latest novel, The Confabulist, is set in the early 20th century and explores the death of Harry Houdini.

Following this panel is the Poetry Cabaret, featuring Rob Winger, Sina Queyras and Adam Sol. They are all talented and acclaimed poets, but I am particularly interested in hearing from Queyras, whose new collection, MxT, combines avant-garde and lyrical poetry. I had her as a professor a few years ago and she blew my mind both as a poet and a speaker.

Miriam Toews

CAROL LOEWEN PHOTO

SUNDAY

If you are looking for a political fix, check out Jospeh Heath's talk on "slow politics." A professor at the University of Toronto and a Trudeau Foundation Fellow, Heath's new book examines how politicians aim to attract our emotions rather than our reason. This, in turn, he argues, prevents us from making the best political choices. With pre-election preparations underway in Ottawa, I think his proposal for slow politics is particularly resonant.

MONDAY

For a dose of fiction, you will definitely want to hear from Miriam Toews and Arjun Basu. I have been following Basu on Twitter for a while now and his posts always make me smile (or smirk.) I enjoyed his short story collection Squishy and can't wait to see how he manages a novel with his dry and poignant humour. Toews is a great writer and her latest book, All My Puny Sorrows, deals with the effects of mental health and suicide on a family. This is really close to Toews' own experience, so it will be interesting to hear her speak about the divide between the personal and the fictional.

Joseph Heath

OSCAR HEATH PHOTO

TUESDAY

The last night of the festival should not be missed. I am particularly looking forward to hearing from Ondjaki, an Angolan writer who recently won the Jose Saramango Prize. Granma Nineteen and the Soviet's Secret, his latest English translation, explores how a village copes when a foreign body wants to change their landscape and what happens when a Soviet leader falls in love with a local woman. I am also looking forward to Nadia Bozak's novel El Niño. Set in a fictional Mexican border zone, it explores the lengths a daughter will go through to be reunited with her mother. This is Bozak's second novel and I think it puts her on the list of the young Canadian novelists to watch.

– Nina Jane Drystek

ILLUMINATING

APRIL 24–29, 2014

THE OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL writers festival

www.writersfestival.org

613.562.1243

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

6:30 PM: **WORLDS WITHIN WORDS**
with Peter Norman, Alena Graedon and Ghalib Islam
Hosted by Stephen Brockwell

8:30 PM: ***GENDER FAILURE***
with Ivan E. Coyote and Rae Spoon
Advance Tickets: $20 / $15 Student or Senior

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

2:00 PM: ***WHAT MAKES OLGA RUN?***
LIVING LONGER, HAPPIER LIVES
with Bruce Grierson • Hosted by Mark Sutcliffe

4:00 PM: **LIFE, DEATH, AND WHAT COMES AFTER**
with Patricia Pearson • Hosted by Neil Wilson

5:00 PM: **PLAN 99 FICTION CABARET**
with Ray Robertson and Harry Karlinsky
Hosted by CBC's Laurence Wall Manx Pub • 370 Elgin St.• Free

6:30 PM: **LIVING HISTORY**
with Sean Michaels, Eva Stachniak and Steven Galloway
Hosted by the *National Post*'s Mark Medley

8:30 PM: **POETRY CABARET**
with Rob Winger, Sina Queyras and Adam Sol
Hosted by Stephen Brockwell

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

2:00 PM: **CONTESTED LAND, CONTESTED MEMORY**
with Jo Roberts • Hosted by *The Hill Times*' Jim Creskey

4:00 PM: **FAILING DEMOCRACY**
with Alison Loat and Michael MacMillan
Hosted by *The Ottawa Citizen*'s Kate Heartfield

5:00 PM: **PLAN 99 POETRY CABARET**
with Brecken Hancock and Aisha Sasha John
Hosted by David O'Meara • Manx Pub • 370 Elgin St. • Free

6:30 PM: **FAST TRACKING SLOW POLITICS**
with Joseph Heath
Hosted by *The Ottawa Citizen*'s Andrew Potter

8:30 PM: **SCENE OF THE CRIME**
with Ian Hamilton, Vidar Sundstøl and Brad Smith
Hosted by CBC's Sandra Abmat

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED: Events are held at Knox Church, 120 Lisgar (at Elgin) and ADVANCE TICKETS are $15 / $10 for students or seniors and FREE for Festival Members and Carleton Students.

details, bios and tickets available online: writersfestival.org

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IMMERSE YOURSELF IN POP CULTURE

OTTAWA COMICCON RUNS MAY 9-11

CONTRIBUTED

I attended my first comic book convention when I was 16 years old. My neighbour drove us to the hotel where it was being held, listening to She's So Young and other songs from The Pursuit of Happiness.

Entering the showroom, I was surrounded by long-boxes full of comics. My heart sang. Hours disappeared as I went from vendor to vendor looking for missing issues of Uncanny X-Men and found some rare second prints of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. It was exhilarating.

Discovering new cons, I would meet amazing artists, watch them sketch, buy their prints, and get their autographs, including Doctor Strange artist Geof Isherwood, and relative newcomer Yanick Paquette, both of whom are creator guests at Ottawa Comiccon May 9-11.

As I grew, so did the conventions, filling them with more of what I loved like sci-fi, horror and fantasy, eventually meeting celebrities from Star Wars, Star Trek and more. I truly loved being at conventions, surrounded by like-minded folk, making me feel like I belonged.

Today, geek culture has intermingled into popular culture with comic books at the source of some of the most successful franchises in film, TV and video games.

At conventions like Ottawa Comiccon, we have moved on to be more inclusive with a wide array of guests and offerings fans feel passionate about. As always, there will be a dash of Star Trek (Karl Urban), a splash of Star Wars (Ray Park), but also a big chunk of horror icons, including Ash (Bruce Campbell), Freddy Krueger (Robert Englund) and Kane Hodder (Jason Voorhees).

The con aims to please no matter one's allegiance, be they the most dedicated Whedonite looking to meet Eliza Dushku or a casual nostalgia fan wanting to sit in the DeLorean from Back To The Future.

One thing this fan won't want to miss is seeing Leonard Nimoy at the special Skype event on May 11. While Spock may have retired from travelling to cons, no one should pass up a chance to interact (on viewscreens) with a figure that not only helped inspire modern technology, but a deep sense of ethics.

– Cliff Caporale, programming director, Ottawa Comiccon

Vince Carter. Chris Bosh. Kyle Lowry. Scan the image below with the Metro News app for a gallery of some of the Raptors' best players — past and present — in the playoffs.

4 SPORTS

U18 championship

Konecny's goal puts Canada in semifinal

Canada is off to the semi-final round at the world under-18 hockey championship, thanks to Travis Konecny, from Clachan, Ont.

Konecny, who plays for the Ottawa 67s, scored the third-period goal that earned Canada a 3-2 quarter-final victory over Switzerland on Thursday. He scored with 30 seconds remaining in regulation after Switzerland had tied it earlier in the period.

Switzerland pulled goalie Gauthier Descloux for the extra attacker afterwards but couldn't beat Canadian netminder Mason McDonald to force overtime.

Canada, which finished the preliminary round atop Group A, faces the Czech Republic in the semifinals Saturday in Lappeenranta, Finland. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Pineda stuck with 10-game ban

New York Yankees pitcher Michael Pineda was suspended for 10 games by Major League Baseball on Thursday for using pine tar to help him grip the ball.

Michael Pineda GETTY IMAGES

He said he won't appeal the penalty that will cost him two starts. Pineda was ejected from Wednesday's 5-1 loss to Boston after umpires found the pine tar on his neck.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raptors in need of star from Game 2

NBA playoffs. Coach, teammates confident DeMar DeRozan can rise to the occasion

DeMar DeRozan makes a layup for the Raptors in their 100-95 win over the Nets on Tuesday at the Air Canada Centre. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

After a wobbly playoff debut, Raptors star DeMar DeRozan returned to attack mode for Game 2 against the Brooklyn Nets.

The 24-year-old Toronto guard had just 14 points in Game 1, with eight of those coming from the free throw line, in a 94-87 loss to visiting Brooklyn that saw DeRozan miss 10 of 13 shots.

On Tuesday, a different DeRozan took the court. As he approached the Nets basket, it was as if his brain was in overdrive as it diagrammed possible plays. The possibilities seemed endless: dish off to a teammate, drive to the basket, pull back and take a shot.

The Raptors will need more of the same Friday when the series switches to Brooklyn's Barclays Center for Game 3.

While Toronto preaches a team approach, the Raptors know good things happen when DeRozan is rolling.

"I was just trying to feed him," Toronto guard Greivis Vasquez said of Game 2. "I was just trying to get him the ball — it was just, 'Go, go. We need you to get confidence.'"

Mission accomplished.

DeRozan finished with 30 points, 17 of which came in the fourth quarter when he made four of five shots and nine of 11 free throws. He finished the game with five fouls, hanging his head at one point at the end of the bench while his teammates huddled during a timeout.

But he was on point when he returned to action in the 100-95 win.

DeRozan's fourth-quarter output was just two points off the club playoff record of 19, set in 2001 by Vince Carter against Philadelphia. Again and again, DeRozan answered the veteran Nets as they tried to claw their way back.

For coach Dwane Casey, DeRozan showed his maturity by taking the shots the defence was giving him rather than trying to force things.

"He's growing," said Casey. "He's still not a finished product. We've just seen the beginning of a guy becoming a star."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Diehard fans

Reppin' the T-Dot in B.K.

They not only rock the ACC, they make a presence on the road as well. Diehard fans have been spotted wearing Raptors jerseys wherever the team has played this season.

But come Friday, Raptors fans will face a new challenge — cheering on their team in Brooklyn in a playoff game. Some dedicated fans are making the trip to what's likely to be a hostile Barclays Center.

"We've just gotta represent our team," fan Burhan Ehsan said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Buehrle's got answers on mound, not off it

Blue Jays starting pitcher Mark Buehrle is off to the best start of his 14-year career. JASON MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

At this stage in his baseball life, Mark Buehrle isn't much interested in self-reflection or analysis.

Facing the prospect of another questioner asking him about his blazing hot start to the season, the Blue Jays' 35-year-old left-hander deadpans: "I'm going to go out and get my ass handed to me so I don't have to talk to media. That's my next plan."

For now, however, he'll oblige. Trouble is, he doesn't have many answers. He swears he isn't doing anything different and has no explanation for why he's off to the best start of his 14-year career.

"Ball's going my way right now," he shrugs.

After four starts, Buehrle is 4-0 and he leads all major-league pitchers with a minuscule 0.64 ERA. He has allowed just a pair of runs, hasn't given up a homer and is averaging seven innings an outing. And he's doing it with a fastball that sits around 83 m.p.h., almost 10 m.p.h. slower than league average.

"When they're hittin' the ball hard, it's goin' to guys. Guys are playing great defence behind me, I'm gettin' run support at the right time. Obviously I am pitching good, but a lot of other stuff has to factor in to have a start like this." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Get the score

Go to metronews.ca to see how the Jays fared in their rubber match against the Orioles.

It all comes down to goaltending

Fleury takes the heat.
Penguins' goalie under fire, even with Crosby and Malkin not scoring

One of the great things about the world we live in is the instant access to information we neither need nor fully understand.

For instance, when Marc-Andre Fleury pulled one of the great choke jobs — even for him — in NHL first-round playoff history on Wednesday, Twitter's #Fleury hashtag trended to the top and was still going strong on Thursday. Weird thing, though — it was going strong in Russian.

It's clear the Penguins have a lot of Russian fans. Fleury does not.

And that's the world Fleury lives in. The team's great when it's winning. The goalie's horrible when it's losing.

The Penguins are tied 2-2 with the Columbus Blue Jackets. They surrendered a 3-0 lead and in the last minute of the game, Fleury wandered behind his net, completely missed the puck and gave Columbus a chance to tie it. It was like all saves he'd made didn't happen.

Then, the Jackets won in overtime on a wrist shot from 50 feet away that is stopped by nine out of 10 road hockey goalies. Then, truly, all the saves he'd made didn't matter.

The Penguins' problems go deeper than Fleury — neither Sidney Crosby nor Evgeni Malkin have scored — but in the playoffs, it all comes down to goaltending. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Just for comparison

Fleury versus Price

Now compare the brain-cramped Fleury to the savvy Carey Price.

Did Montreal ice the puck and do his linemates need a rest? Price has a problem with his equipment. Is there a player in his crease? Price makes sure to "get hit" by him, just in case. A goal is called back. Is there a stoppage in play so Price can skate to the bench? Why not trip an unsuspecting Tampa player or two en route, to give the Bell Centre crowd something to laugh at?

Penguins' goalie Marc-Andre Fleury is unable to stop a game-winning long shot from Nick Foligno of the Columbus Blue Jackets in overtime in Game 4 of the playoffs on Wednesday in Columbus, Ohio. KIRK IRWIN/GETTY IMAGES

Chicago at St. Louis.
Seabrook likely to return before injured Backes

One more game, and the Chicago Blackhawks will have linchpin defenceman Brent Seabrook back in the lineup.

The St. Louis Blues aren't certain when captain David Backes, the player on the receiving end of the head-jarring hit that landed Seabrook a three-game suspension, will be ready.

Coach Ken Hitchcock said from a selfish standpoint it would be unfair if Seabrook returned before Backes to a white-knuckle first-round playoff series tied at two games apiece heading into Game 5 Friday night. Backes was not among a handful on the ice for an optional practice Thursday and Hitchcock was tight-lipped about his status.

"He's not skating today so read what you want from that," Hitchcock said. "He's not around, he's not skating, so we'll see tomorrow.

"Hopefully, he's able to get back before Seabrook or by Seabrook's time, so it doesn't turn into a little bit of an advantage for Chicago."

The Blackhawks have won two straight, mounting their bid for a repeat Stanley Cup. They took the day off for travel, confident they can beat the Blues on the road.

"I think the odds are in our favour right now," forward Andrew Shaw said. "The last two games have been huge for us. We had a good push, the push we needed."

The Blues still have home-ice advantage in a series that couldn't be closer. Three games were decided in overtime and Game 3 was a one-goal affair before the Blackhawks added an empty-netter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brent Seabrook
GETTY IMAGES

Knee-on-knee hit

Cooke apologizes to injured Av

Minnesota Wild left-winger Matt Cooke has apologized for the knee-on-knee hit on Colorado Avalanche defenceman Tyson Barrie.

Cooke drew a seven-game suspension from the NHL for the hit that knocked Barrie out of action for 4-6 weeks.

Cooke said he did not intend to injure Barrie, adding it was a case of him playing his physical style. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL awards

Bergeron, Toews, Kopitar named finalists for Selke

Patrice Bergeron, Jonathan Toews and Anze Kopitar are the finalists for the NHL's Selke Trophy, awarded to the best defensive forward.

Chicago Blackhawk Toews edged out Bergeron of the Boston Bruins for the honour last year. Kopitar is the first player in Los Angeles Kings franchise history to be a Selke finalist. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Try not to be too serious about life today. There's a time to ponder the big questions but this isn't it. The planets urge you to be practical and to focus on what's in front of you.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
All things may be possible for you now but the planets warn you should be tying up loose ends rather than starting anything new. Are you prepared for what is to come? Get your act together.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You will find it easy to get your way. Others will take it for granted that you are the boss and do as you say. If you use charm rather than coercion you will find that everyone will do almost anything for you.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
No matter how much others might question your beliefs, if you are happy with them there is no reason to change. Yes, some of your ideas may seem irrational, but so what?

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Make sure you get value for money today because if you don't take care of your cash, others will get rich at your expense. You may not care now how much things are costing you but you will when you can no longer afford them.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you make an effort to reach out to those you love, this will be an enjoyable day. Some may be of the opinion that you lack the human touch but obviously they don't know you.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
No matter how determined you are to make an impression on people in positions of power you must not run yourself into the ground.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You won't be shy about letting those you care for know how much they mean to you. Creatively, too, this should be a good day for you, so let your artistic side come to the fore.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you have been too busy to spend much quality time with loved ones recently, you will get the chance to make up for it over the next few days. You've had your fun, now you want those you have feelings for to have fun as well.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You want to go out and have a good time but you also want to express your feelings openly and honestly. Yes, you can do both. This is the perfect day to use those three magic words: "I love you". Mean them.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You are on a winning streak at the moment and the planets indicate it will continue into the weekend. It doesn't have to be just about money — you will be lucky in love as well.

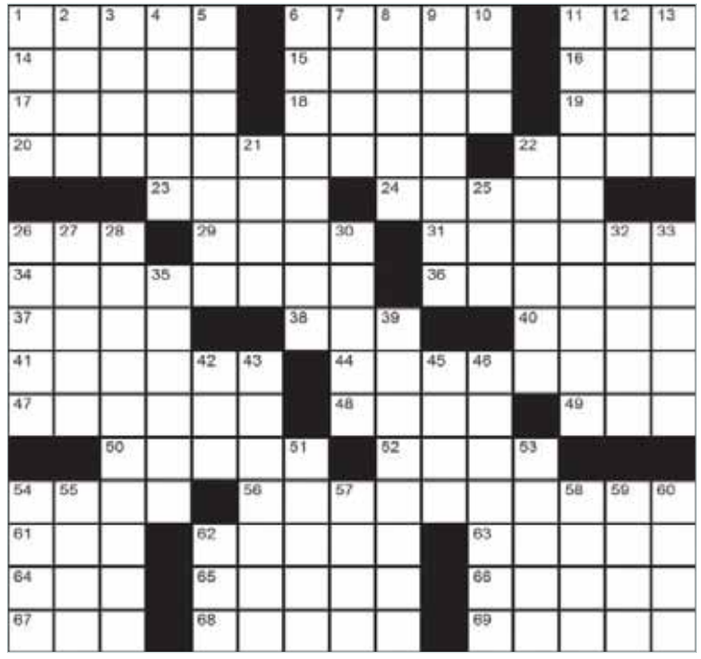
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will feel good about yourself today, thanks to the influence of Venus, planet of harmony, in your sign. Try to avoid work that may be strenuous because it's unlikely that your heart will be in it.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



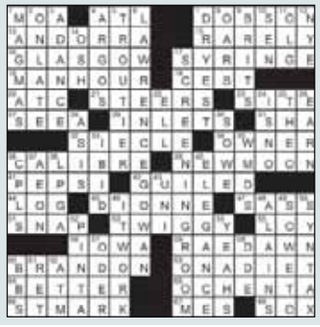
Across

1. Circus clown's one-of-two supports
6. Former-pro-wrestler Ms. Keibler
11. Moose __, SK
14. Verboten
15. Attack of pain
16. Alias indicator
17. Swashbuckling props
18. Ms. Bombeck's
19. Zilch
20. Madame Tussauds attractions: 2 wds.
22. Chap
23. Particular preservative
24. Pub order
26. Scand. land
29. Quebec: Saint-Joseph-__-__-Rive
31. Mountain ridges
34. Maple syrup targets
36. "Maybe __ _ nice walk?" (Human-to-dog suggestion)
37. Rapper, Flo __
38. Brit. fliers
40. Divided
41. Classic video game platforms
44. Singer/songwriter/activist, 'Canada's Queen of Punk': 2 wds.
47. Northern __ (Seabird of the North Atlantic)
48. Blues guitarist Robert
49. Mr. Sock's
50. Ms. Rowlands, and namesakes
52. Single-named Ziegfeld Follies designer
54. He's opposite
56. Method to create smoky messages
61. Ventilate
62. Ring
63. __jumbo
64. 'Impress' suffix
65. Thus
66. Proclamation
67. Pointed the way
68. Equally cry-worthy: 2 wds.
69. Prefix to 'dyne' (Toothpaste brand)

Down

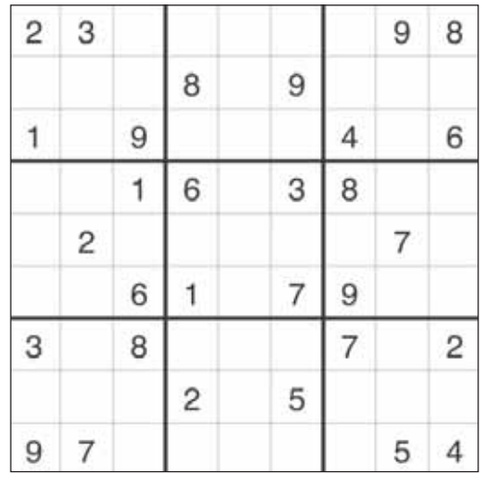
1. Slow cooker dish
2. Spanish appetizer
3. Steep-terrain-dwelling animal with recurved horns
4. Windblown silt deposit
5. Deep-fried tortilla
6. Town dubbed 'The Heart of Alberta'
7. Drive-__ (Fast food service)
8. Weapons: French
9. Like many Newfoundland communities
10. Nod's meaning
11. "When Calls the Heart", a new series set in a coal town in Western Canada and airing on Super Channel, is based on the work of this bestselling Alberta author: 2 wds.
12. Comparable
13. Mr. Disney
21. Director Mr. Keshishian
22. "Titanium" by David __ feat. Sia
25. Hour: Italian
26. Wheel-steadying wedge
27. "__ _ second!" (Hold on!)
28. Banff Springs Snail status
30. Easy __ _ _ _ (Simple)
32. Goofed
33. Smoothes
35. "Bette Davis Eyes" by Kim __
39. Yukon's official flower
42. CTV journalist Marci
43. Buried treasures
45. Jamie of "M*A*S*H"
46. Big Apple newspaper: acr. + wd.
51. Potato parts
53. Chopin music piece
54. Traverse the seas
55. Bee's abode
57. Common gym site
58. Standard song: "__ the Mood for Love": 2 wds.
59. The Peacock network's
60. Attend: 2 wds.
62. Dance style, when repeated

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

5	2	6	1	4	7	8	9	3
3	4	8	2	9	5	6	7	1
9	7	1	3	6	8	2	4	5
4	9	2	5	8	1	3	6	7
6	5	7	9	3	4	1	2	8
8	1	3	6	7	2	9	5	4
2	8	9	7	5	3	4	1	6
7	6	4	8	1	9	5	3	2
1	3	5	4	2	6	7	8	9

Today
11°/4°
Variable

Saturday
9°/2°
Rain
90%

Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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